ABDUCTED BY DEMONS ARC

1

Higurashi
WHEN THEY CRY

STORY BY
RYUKISHI07

ART BY
KARIN SUZURAGI

Higurashi
WHEN THEY CRY

ABDUCTED BY DEMONS ARC

Higurashi WHEN THEY CRY
ABDUCTED BY DEMONS ARC

1 CONTENTS

1 HINAMIZAWA VILLAGE 3

2 THE NIGHT OF THE COTTON DRIFTING 67

3 SUSPICION 135

PLEASE DON'T BE SAD.
EVEN IF THE WORLD DOESN'T FORGIVE YOU, I WILL FORGIVE YOU.

PLEASE DON'T BE SAD.
EVEN IF YOU DON'T FORGIVE THE WORLD, I WILL FORGIVE YOU.

SO PLEASE TELL ME.
WHAT SHOULD I DO SO THAT YOU'LL FORGIVE ME?

Frederica Bernkastel

CHAPTER 1: HINAMIZAWA VILLAGE

I'M SORRY...

I'M

.....I FEEL LIKE SOMEONE'S BEEN APOLOGIZING FOR A LONG TIME.

I'M SORRY...

I'M SORRY...

I'M SORRY...

I...AM...SORRY...

NO MATTER WHAT THE ERROR, NOTHING IS UNFORGIVABLE.

THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS A MISTAKE THAT CAN'T BE FIXED.

IF IT IS SOMETHING THAT CAN'T BE FIXED, THAT'S ALL THE MORE REASON TO FORGIVE HER. BECAUSE NOTHING WILL CHANGE BY HER APOLOGIZING NOW.

JUST FORGIVE HER ALREADY...

KEI-ICHI.

WE'RE ALMOST THERE.

YOU'RE ALMOST BACK TO HINAMIZAWA AFTER TWO WHOLE DAYS, KEIICHI.

雑魚見放すなよ
FLAG: HINAMIZAWA BIKE CLAN
GO!!!

EARLY SUMMER, 1983

I'M KEIICHI MAE-BARA.

'COS OF MY DAD'S JOB AS A PAINTER...

I'M OFF!

...I MOVED TO HINAMIZAWA. I'VE BEEN HERE THREE WEEKS.

KEIICHI, YOU'RE NOT FOR-GETTING ANYTHING, ARE YOU?

I SAID I'M GOOD!

THERE AREN'T ANY CON-VENIENCE STORES OR FAMILY RES-TAURANTS ...

...BUT LIFE HERE ISN'T BAD.

YOU RIDE THE BULLET TRAIN AND THEN THE NORMAL TRAIN FOR A FEW HOURS...

...AND THEN TAKE A CAR EVEN FARTHER INTO THE MOUNTAINS...

...AND IN THAT REMOTE PLACE, YOU ARRIVE HERE, IN HINAMI-ZAWA.

HAA (PANT)

KANA (CHIRP)

KANA

KANA

HAA

BUT I WANTED TO COME BACK SO BAD I COULDN'T STAND IT.

HAA

I'D GONE TO THE CITY FOR TWO DAYS FOR A RELATIVE'S FUNERAL.

AH-TAH-TAH!

AND THE REASON FOR THAT...

IT LOOKS LIKE I LIKE MY LIFE HERE IN HINAMI-ZAWA.

KEIICHI-KUUUN! GOOD MOOOO-OORNING!

DID YOU GET HERE IN A HURRY?

...HUH, DID YOU?

IF RENA OVER-SLEPT, SHE'D BE MAKING YOU WAIT, KEIICHI-KUN.

KUSU (GIGGLE)

YOU'RE ALWAYS SO EARLY.

YOU COULD OVERSLEEP SOMETIMES, YOU KNOW.

CHUN

CHUN (TWEET)

IF RENA OVER-SLEPT, I'D WAIT?

DOES RENA THINK I LOOK LIKE A NICE ENOUGH GUY TO WAIT FOR HER?

THEN I'M GONNA TEASE HER A LITTLE.

NIYARI (LEER)

IT'S PRETTY FUNNY TO TEASE RENA.

EEEHH!?

HEH-HEH!

WHEN YOU OVER-SLEEP, I'LL LEAVE YOU BE-HIND.

くるり

KURURI (SPIN)

WHY'RE YOU SO COLD...?

WHY?

SEE? SHE TAKES IT SERIOUSLY AND GETS INTO A HUGE TIZZY.

HEH HEH HEH!

I'D GO RIGHT ON AHEAD WITHOUT YOU! WITHOUT A SECOND THOUGHT!

ALRIGHT, THAT'S ENOUGH.

KEIICHI-KUUUUN!

Just kidding.

PITA (STOP)

NOW I'LL ATTACK FROM THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION.

I'll wait the whole time.

As long as it takes!

I WOULD WAIT UNTIL YOU CAME, RENA.

THE FINAL BLOW!

U-uh... umm...

Th-thank you...

KAY

THIS WEIRDO WHO BLUSHES SO EASILY IS RENA RYUGU.

APPARENTLY SHE HAS A HUGE WEAKNESS FOR LINES LIKE THESE.

HEH HEH!

SCORE!!

LET'S GO! MION WON'T SHUT UP IF WE KEEP HER WAITING.

IT HASN'T EVEN BEEN A MONTH SINCE I MET HER.

IT'S EASY TO TELL THAT HER NAME ISN'T THE ONLY STRANGE THING ABOUT HER.

HEEEEY!

NN?

YOU'RE BOTH SO SLOW !!

TWO DAYS IS A PRETTY LONG TIME, YOU KNOW?

LOOK HOW MUCH THIS OLD MAN HAS GROWN SINCE I SAW YOU LAST!

ぼよよんぼよよん

BOYOYOYOYON (BOI-OI-OI-OI-OING)

MORNING, RENA! HOW MANY YEARS HAS IT BEEN, KEI-CHAN?

OHH, MII-CHAN! GOOD MORN-NG!

IT WAS ONLY TWO DAYS.

THIS GIRL...

Eh?

THEN DO YOU WANNA GROPE THEM?

BOYON ぼよん

I-I'M NOT INTER-ESTED IN YOUR BREASTS, MION.

YOU'VE STILL GOT A LONG WAY TO GO, KEI-CHAN!

あはは AHAHA!

MION SONOZAKI. SHE MAY NOT LOOK IT, BUT SHE'S THE RINGLEADER OF OUR CLASS.

SFX: ZUI (PRESS)

WA-WAH!

THEY'RE SOOOOOFT. DON'T YOU WANT TO TRY THEM OUT, YOUNG MAN?

ZUI

SFX: KUSU (GIGGLE)

SFX: WATATA (PANIC PANIC)

J-

JUST A...

K-KEIICHI-KUN.

OUT OF THE WAY, RENA! MION WANTS ME TO GROPE HER! I HAVE TO LIVE UP TO HER EXPECTATIONS!

GURUN (TURN)

AAAH HAHA!

MIONNN-NNNNN!

MAKING AN IDIOT OUT OF ME! I'LL GROPE YOU TO DEATH!!

GURUN

SO THEN ...

PFF HEH HEH

... YOU'LL BE OKAY WITH IT WHEN WE'RE ADULTS!?

I don't think we should be doing things like that...

We're still children.

OHH...

AAAHAHAHA!

HEH-HEH-HEH!

WE MAY LOOK AS CLOSE AS WE DO, BUT IT HASN'T EVEN BEEN A MONTH SINCE WE MET.

WH-WHEN WE'RE ADULTS...

OHH?

WILL IT BE OKAY... WILL IT?

IT'S EASY TO TELL THAT THEY'RE BEING CONSIDERATE OF ME SO THAT I, THE TRANSFER STUDENT, CAN FIT IN.

I'M SURE THAT HERE IT'S APPROPRIATE TO BE A LITTLE OVER-FAMILIAR.

I HAVE TO MAKE AN EFFORT TO FIT IN QUICKLY MYSELF.

KANA KANA KANA KANA

AH.

IT'S A COMBINED CLASS YOU'D NEVER FIND IN THE CITY.

THERE'S ONLY ONE CLASS, AND EVERYONE'S IN A DIFFERENT GRADE AND WEARS A DIFFERENT UNIFORM.

HINAMIZAWA REALLY IS A SMALL VILLAGE.

WHAT'S THE MATTER?

WHOA, SUSPICIOUS.

AFTER YOU, KEI-CHAN! ♡

HEH HEH HEH..

GET BACK, RENA.

SO THERE IS SOMETHING!

DON! (BAM!)

YIW!

HO HO HO!

YOUR TRAP IS SO OBVIOUS, SATOKO!

DANCE IN THE PALM OF MY HAND!

HO HO.

GO-GO-GO-GO (RUMBLE) (RUMBLE)

HEH-HEH-HEH

GOOD LUCK, KEIICHI-KUN!

THIS TIME I'LL CAPTURE YOU EASILY!

...IT'S PROBABLY MEANT TO LEAD ME TO THE SLIDING DOOR...

SFX: GEH!

SO THAT MEANS ...

THE BLACKBOARD ERASER IS CLEARLY A DECOY. IT'S TOO OBVIOUS.

HEH HEH... SIT BACK AND WATCH.

BUT THIS OLD MAN'S STILL BETTING ON SATOKO'S VICTORY!

HEH HEH HEH!

HA

I'VE SEEN THROUGH ALL YOUR TRAPS!!

TOO BAD, SATOKO ...

GARARA (RATTLE)

HA HA!!

TRAPS DIS-ARMED !!

RARA!

BETO (STICK)

YOU PUT THIS MANY TACKS ON THE DOOR!?

BETO

TO TO TO

UWAH !!?

GAKUN (COLOR)

EH?

BYON (TWANG)

ZUBE (TRIP)

AND I'M GONNA LAND ON...

GASP!

SHE SET UP A JUMP ROPE TOO!?

DOH (THUD!)

WHOOOOAA!?

...AN INK-STONE!?

BAM BAM

GOOD MORN-ING ...

DOKIN (BA-DUMP)

NICE DODGE, KEI-CHAN.

TH-THAT WAS CLOSE ...

DOKIN

DOKIN

SFX: ZEE HAA (GASP WHEEZE)

YOUR SPECIAL TRAP WORK HAS GONE UP A LEVEL!!

SA-TOKO, WHY YOU!

GOOD MORNING, SIR.

YOU'RE EVER SO LIVELY THIS MORNING!

OHOHOHOHO!

I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.

OH-HO-HO! LET'S LET'S LET'S!

SATOKO HOJO. SHE'S A COCKY LITTLE BRAT WHO'S ALWAYS SETTING UP TRAPS.

POFUN (PAT)

I TWIST-ED MY HIP! I'M GONNA MAKE YOU CRY!!

SASU (RUB)

なでる
NADE

なでる
NADE (PET)

Owie owie, fly away, sir.

If I pet you like this, the pain will disappear, sir.

THIS NICE GIRL IS RIKA FURUDE-CHAN. ...SHE'S SUCH A GOOD KID.

NIPAAA (BEEEAM)

BUT THAT'S MY HEAD ...

THANKS, RIKA-CHAN.

GLUH (CLENCH)

NOOOO! YOU BEAST !!

...A KID LIKE YOU IS SEN-TENCED TO A FORE-HEAD FLICK!!

SATOKO... COMPARED TO HER...

EEK!?

GO GO GO (RUMBLE)

...was so lonely when you were gone, Keiichi, sir...

SNIFF... MU CWHIMPER

Satoko ...

I'M OPPOSED TO VIO-LENCE!!

DON'T SAY THOSE THINGS! PEOPLE'LL GET THE WRONG IDEA!!

KUU (TUG)

SFX: PIN CFLICK

WAA-AHH!

HIC!

ERK...

I HATE YOU, KEIICHI-SAN!!

FUEEEEEEN (WAAAAAAAH)

WAAAAAHH!

PURU (JIGGLE)

IT'S SO A-A-

ADOW-ABLE!

PURU

TCH

YOU COULD FEEL A LITTLE BAD...

...IS CRY-ING.

SA-TOKO-CHAN...

I'M TAKING YOU HOME WITH ME!!

RENA HAS WAY TOO MUCH OF A SOFT SPOT FOR CUTE-NESS !!

KUMA! (BEAR)

OH NO! RENA'S "ADOW-ABLE" MODE HAS BEEN ACTIVAT-ED!

HEEEY, SENSEI'S HERE!

CALM DOWN! KIDNAP-PING IS A CRIME!

SHE TRIES TO TAKE EVERY-THING HOME WITH HER, NO MAT-TER WHAT IT IS!

DOH

DOH

DOH

DOH

...BUT WE ALL CLEAN IT UP TO-GETHER.

BARI

IT MAY HAVE BEEN SATOKO WHO SET IT UP...

BARI (TEAR)

CRAP! WE GOTTA CLEAN THIS UP FAST!

I'M TAKING THEM HOME WITH ME!

CLASS IS STARTING!

NYAA!

HEH-HEH-HEH

THIS DAILY LIFE IN HINAM-IZAWA ISN'T BAD AT ALL.

...I DON'T CARE HOW MUCH EFFORT IT TAKES.

IF IT MEANS THIS SAME SCENE CONTINUES...

NOTE SUCCESSFULLY FELL INTO 20 TRAPS!

UH, UM!

IT'S SO FUN AT SCHOOL. I HATE TO GO HOME.

RAIIIAN (BUZZZZZ)

RAHIN

SEE YOU TOMORROW, KEI-CHAN, RENA!

あす... OZU (FIDGET)

...DO YOU?

...DO YOU HAVE ANY PLANS OR ANYTHING LATER TODAY?

K-KEIICHI-KUN...

KAAAA (BLUUUSH)

UM... WAH!

WH-WHAT AN ASSER-TIVE AP-PROACH ...

...HUH?

DOKIN (BA-DUMP)

I-I WAS THINK-ING I'D SHOW YOU AROUND HINAMI-ZAWA ...!

N-NO! IT'S NOTHING LIKE THAT!

AND I DON'T REALLY KNOW THE VILLAGE VERY WELL...

WELL, I'M NOT NOT FREE...

ARE YOU FREE? ...ARE YOU?

GAGOOON. (CLAAAANG)

CRAP, I GOT THE WRONG IDEA!

EH...? OH, SIGHT-SEEING. RIGHT.

Is this really a date...?

POWAN (BLUSH)

...Is this!?

E-EEHH !?

WELL, THEN IT'S A DATE!

ARE YOU JOKING? ...ARE YOU?

WASHA (RUFFLE)

HEH HEH!

SORRY. I'M JOKING.

...BUT THIS WILL BE THE FIRST TIME I'VE REALLY LOOKED AROUND THE VILLAGE.

IT'S BEEN THREE WEEKS SINCE I MOVED HERE...

AH, THAT IS, I'M PLEASED TO MAKE YOUR ACQUAINTANCE.

PEKORI (BOW)

HEE-HEE. PLEASED TO MEET YOU.

YOU'RE GETTING ALONG SO WELL THAT'S NICE.

MIGHT YOU BE MAEBARA-KUN?

AH! HELLO!

HELLO.

EVERYONE IN THE VILLAGE KNOWS YOUR NAME, KEIICHI-KUN.

...EH?

SHE KNEW MY NAME.

AH HA HA.

SO EVERY-BODY KNOWS EVERY-BODY.

HINAMIZAWA IS A SMALL VILLAGE.

WH-WHY AM I SO FAMOUS!?

IT'S NOT THAT HARD TO UNDER-STAND.

OH, I SEE. SO...

...IF THEY FIND SOMEONE THEY DON'T KNOW, THAT AUTOMATICALLY MAKES HIM "MAEBARA-SAN, THE GUY WHO JUST MOVED IN."

THAT'S RIGHT!

WOW, YOU ALL KNOW SO MUCH ABOUT EACH OTHER.

NEXT IS DAISUKE-KUN. HIS DREAM IS TO BE A SNIPER.

AND BEFORE HER, WE MET MR. TAKEZO.

SHE SAYS HER HOBBY IS BIRD-WATCHING.

AH, THE WOMAN JUST NOW WAS MIYO-SAN, A NURSE AT IRIE CLINIC.

BUT THE TIME I SPEND WITH RENA IS SO FUN, IT GOES BY IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE.

KANA-(CHIRP)-KANA KANA

THE SHINTO SHRINE, THE SUSPENSION BRIDGE... THERE AREN'T A LOT OF PLACES TO GO SIGHTSEEING IN THIS MOUNTAIN VILLAGE.

SOWA (FIDGET) SOWA

IS THAT OKAY? ...IS IT?

THERE'S ONE MORE PLACE I WANT TO GO...

IT'S GETTING DARK...

AH, KEIICHI-KUN!

COULD IT BE ...

...SURE. I DON'T MIND.

THIS WAY, THIS WAY.

YAY! THANK YOU!

SOUNDS FUN!

...THAT NOW WE'RE GOING TO A FAMOUS TOURIST SPOT?

IT'S OVER HERE!

WAKU (BOUNCE) WAKU

IT'S .. A TRASH HEAP!?
OOOH! THERE'S A NEW MOUNTAIN!
IT'S NOT TRASH!
R-RENA?
...OHH.
TO RENA, TO RENA, IT'S—!
DON'T TELL ME SHE HAS SPECIAL MEMORIES HERE OR SOME-THING.

IT IS!!

...IT'S... IT'S A MOUNTAIN OF TREASURE!

@YUN! (SQUEEZE)

KEIICHI!

IT'S ADOR-ABLE! I'M TAKING IT HOME WITH ME!!

PYOOON (ZOOOM)

IT'S ALL ILLEGALLY DUMPED GARBAGE!

HOW DOES *THIS* LOOK LIKE A MOUNTAIN OF TREA-SURE?

"I'M TAKING IT HOME" MODE!

GAGON (SHOCK)

THERE IT IS!

I'LL BE DONE SOON!!

IT'S OKAY. YOU STAY THERE, KEIICHI-KUN!!

WAIT UP! I'M COMING TOO... WAH!!

GUNI (SQUISH)

BE CARE-FUL! DON'T FALL!

RENA REALLY IS SOME-THING ELSE.

.....

THIS OIL DRUM TOO!

ZUGO (CLUNK)

SOH (SOFTLY)

THIS WHEEL IS ADOR-ABLE!

BEKYA (SNAP)

WAIT A SEC-OND!

カナカナカナ…

KANA (CHIRP) KANA KANA

カナカナカナ…

KANA KANA KANA

HERE THERE'S NO SOUND FROM CARS OR LOUD CRAM SCHOOL TEACHERS' VOICES.

THERE'S NOTHING TO MAKE ANY NOISE...

RENA'S GONE.

IT SURE IS QUIET.

ふぁ.

HTO (DOZE)

IT REALLY IS A GOOD PLACE...

WH-WHAT THE!?

KASHA SLASH!

WHOOPS!

WH-WHAT ...

...ARE YOU DOING ALL OF A SUDDEN!?

DID I STARTLE YOU?

I'M SORRY. I DIDN'T MEAN TO SCARE YOU.

ARE YOU FROM HINAMIZAWA?

I'M TOMITAKE, A FREELANCE PHOTOGRAPHER.

I VISIT HINAMIZAWA EVERY SO OFTEN.

OH.

DOES THIS GUY NOT LIVE IN THE VILLAGE?

!

SO YOU TREAT ME THE SAME AS A BIRD?

HRRM ...

I'M SORRY. I MOSTLY TAKE PICTURES OF BIRDS.

I'VE NEVER GOTTEN PERMISSION BEFORE.

IF YOU'RE GOING TO TAKE PICTURES, ISN'T IT POLITE TO ASK THE SUBJECT FIRST?

SFX: MUKA (IRIO MUKA

... NO, NO.

I APOLOGIZE FOR SNAPPING THE PICTURE BEFORE ASKING YOUR PERMISSION.

WHAT IS WITH THIS GUY!?

PLEASE, STOP THAT!

UWAH!

YOU WERE JUST SO PICTURESQUE, SITTING THERE IN THE TWILIGHT.

KASHA! (CLICK!)

BUN (WAVE)

SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING!

I'M FINISHING UP NOW!

BUN

KEIICHI-KUN!

HOW-EVER YOU LOOK AT IT, SHE'S DIGGING THROUGH TRASH.

THAT'S WHAT I'D LIKE TO KNOW.

WHAT IS SHE DOING IN A PLACE LIKE THAT?

PIKU PIKU TWITCH

MAYBE SHE'S CHECKING FOR THE PIECES OF THE DEAD BODY SHE KILLED AND BURIED THERE A LONG TIME AGO?

DUNNO...

NO, I'M KIDDING.

AH.

THAT WAS A TERRIBLE INCIDENT, WASN'T IT?

EH?

WH-WHAT'S HE TALKING ABOUT?

EH...?

THEY STILL HAVEN'T FOUND ONE OF THE ARMS, HAVE THEY?

NOW, DID THEY CATCH THE CRIMINAL ...?

APPARENTLY THE KILLING TOOK PLACE AROUND HERE.

WHAT ON EARTH ARE YOU...

...UM, TOMITAKE... SAN?

KEIICHI-KUN, SORRY TO KEEP YOU!

WHOOPS, SORRY FOR INTRUD-ING.

TATA (SKIP)

DID YOU WAIT LONG? ...DID YOU?

I'M SORRY FOR SCARING YOU, "KEIICHI-KUN."

.....

KEIICHI-KUN...?

OHHP

GEHI A RICE COOKER !?

BORORON MURMUR

IT'S NOT LIKE IT'S RENA'S FAULT...

KE'ICHI-KUN, YOU HAVEN'T SAID A WORD

ARE YOU MAD? ...ARE YOU?

EH...? BUT IT'S ADOW-ABLE.

YOU'RE TAKING SOMETHING LIKE THAT HOME WITH YOU!?

SFX: SURI (NUZZLE) SURI

KENTA-KUN?

I WANT TO TAKE KENTA-KUN HOME TOO.

KENTA-KUN, HUH...

THE GUY WHO STANDS IN FRONT OF THE FRIED CHICKEN PLACES?

HE WAS BURIED IN THE MOUN-TAIN OF TREA-SURE!

UH-HUH!

EH ...? WAH ...!

I GUESS I GOT NO CHOICE. I'LL HELP YOU.

RENA IS ALWAYS SO NICE TO ME.

HE WAS ALL THE WAY AT THE BOT-TOM. I CAN'T GET HIM OUT.

HE'S TRASH. IT'S OKAY TO TAKE HIM, YOU KNOW.

THAT TRASH HEAP BACK THERE. DID SOMETHING HAPPEN THERE?

HEY, RENA.

POWAN (BLUSH)

TH-THANK YOU, KEIICHI-KUN...

...ABOUT THAT UNSET-TLING STORY I JUST HEARD.

RENA MIGHT TELL ME SOME-THING ...

SO, LIKE, DID SOMETHING HAPPEN DURING CONSTRUCTION...? LIKE AN ACCIDENT...?

OR SOME TROUBLE...?

I DON'T KNOW ALL THE DETAILS.

I HEAR THEY WERE BUILDING A DAM.

I DON'T KNOW.

THAT...

EH...?

...AS AN OUTRIGHT REJECTION.

THAT WAS THE FIRST TIME I'D HEARD RENA TALK LIKE THAT.

EH...? YOU WERE A TRANSFER STUDENT TOO, RENA?

...RENA LIVED SOMEWHERE ELSE UNTIL LAST YEAR TOO.

YOU KNOW, ACTUALLY...

HA (GASP)

THAT WAS A TERRIBLE INCIDENT, WASN'T IT?

SHE DOESN'T REALLY KNOW? REALLY?

IT'S NOT JUST THAT SHE DOESN'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT...?

I'M SORRY. ☆

SO I DON'T REALLY KNOW WHAT HAPPENED BEFORE THAT.

...HAPPENED IN HINAMIZAWA?

...THEN WHAT THE HELL...

THEY STILL HAVEN'T FOUND ONE OF THE ARMS, HAVE THEY?

IF WHAT TOMITAKE-SAN SAID WAS TRUE...

KANA KANA..

...AND MY MIND WAS FILLED WITH FRUITLESS IMAGIN-INGS.

IN THE END, I DIDN'T TURN ON THE TV LAST NIGHT...

N-NO, I'M FINE.

YOU LOOK DOWN, KEI-CHAN.

THEN LET'S GET STARTED, SHALL WE?

BUT WHAT WAS WITH RENA'S REACTION ...?

MURDER CASES AREN'T THAT UN-USUAL.

AND I'D LIKE TO ASK THE CLUB MEMBERS THEIR OPINIONS !!

GUI! (YANK!)

ALRIGHT, TODAY I'M OVER-TURNING OUR CLUB RULES!

...AND INCLUDE HIM IN OUR CLUB ACTIVITIES. WHAT DO YOU ALL THINK!?

I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE KEIICHI MAEBARA A MEMBER OF OUR CLUB...

DON WHAM!

勝敗表

魅音 十 都

WIN-LOSS RECORD
MION
RENA
SATOKO
RIKA
KEIICHI

I'M PUTTING UP THE SCOREBOARD! YOU GET ONE X-MARK EVERY TIME YOU COME IN LAST!

YOU SIT HERE, KEI-CHAN.

HEY, COME ON, MION!

SFX: GATATA (CLATTER)

SATOKO AND ME BOTH APPROVE, SIR!

WOULD A PAUPER LIKE HIM EVEN BE A MATCH FOR ME, I WONDER!?

RENA HAS NO OBJECTIONS!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, CLUB ACTIVITIES?

HO HO HO!

KEIICHI-SAN IS SURE TO BE IN LAST PLACE.

HEH HEH HEH!

D-DON'T BE TOO MEAN TO RENA, OKAY?

BASICALLY, IT'S A CLUB WHERE WE ALL PLAY GAMES, SIR.

WHAT ARE YOUR CLUB ACTIVITIES!?

LIKE I ASKED!

IF I'M GOING TO DO IT, I'M GOING TO WIN!!!

WHY YOU... DON'T UNDER-ESTIMATE ME, MION!

BISHI! (WHIP!)

TODAY WE'RE PLAYING OLD GEEZER. YOU KNOW HOW TO PLAY, RIGHT, KEI-CHAN?

HEH-HEH-HEH.

BUT I DON'T THINK YOU CAN WIN.

KACHIN (SNAP)

SIGN: WIN-LOSS BOARD / MION / RENA / SATOKO / RIKA / KEIICHI

WAIT A MINUTE !?

KEI-CHAN'S IN LAST PLACE!

GERA (GUFFAW)

GERA

BAN! (BAM!)

SOME-THING IS DEFI-NITELY FISHY!!

HOW CAN I LOSE AT OLD GEEZER TEN TIMES IN A ROW?

BAH (SNATCH!)

.....

IT'S LIKE YOU ALL KNOW WHAT ALL THE CARDS ARE...

TEAR

BUT YOU'RE JUST A LIIIITTLE BIT TOO LATE.

I'M IM-PRESSED YOU FIG-URED IT OUT.

HEH

GUNYOOO (BENNND)

YOU COULD ALL TELL FROM THE TEAR IN THE CARD, COULDN'T YOU!?

THAT'S CHEATING!!

HO HO

YOU HAVE TO MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO WIN!

HO HO

UNDERSTAND? IN THIS CLUB, YOU CAN'T WIN IF YOU'RE BOUND BY COMMON SENSE.

IT'S NOT OVER YET, KEI-CHAN.

HUH?

GYU (SQUEEZE)

FINE WITH ME! NEXT TIME I SHOW NO MERCY!

YOU MEAN DO WHATEVER IT TAKES TO WIN?

PLEASANT DAYS THAT ARE ALWAYS THE SAME.

TOMITAKE-SAN'S UNSETTLING STORY AND MY IMAGE OF HINAMIZAWA JUST DON'T MESH.

THERE'S A PENALTY FOR THE LOSER.

WHA!?

SFX: GETE (CACKLE) GETE

I'LL SEE YOU AT THE CONSTRUCTION SITE, KEIICHI-KUN!

I HAD FUN TODAY! LET'S PLAY AGAIN TOMORROW!

...IF YOU WANNA TALK ABOUT TRASH.

PFFT

BE-SIDES ...

I HAVE TO GO TO THE TRASH HEAP WITH RENA TODAY.

YOU KEEP SAYING TRASH, TRASH. I FEEL SORRY FOR THAT PLACE.

SH-SHUT UP!!

...YOUR FACE IS TRASH, KEI-CHAN!!

GYA-HA-HA-HA!

GRAFFITI SENTENCE

FACE: TRASH

WOW, YOU'RE INFORMED. WHO'D YOU HEAR THAT FROM?

FUKI (WIPE)

FUKI

IT'S THE REMAINS OF A CONSTRUCTION SITE, RIGHT?

WHAT HAPPENED THERE...

OH, IT MIGHT BE ALRIGHT FOR YOU TO KNOW, KEI-CHAN.

DID SOMETHING HAPPEN THERE A LONG TIME AGO?

HEY, MION.

...WAS THE HINAMIZAWA DAM CONSTRUCTION PROJECT.

THE COUNTRY TRIED TO BUILD A DAM AND SINK THIS VILLAGE TO THE BOTTOM OF A LAKE.

AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL ONLY

関係者以外

立入禁止

NO TRESPASSING

WE FOUGHT AT THE CONSTRUCTION SITE.

WE HAD SIT-INS AND DEMONSTRATIONS.

OF COURSE WE WERE ADAMANTLY AGAINST IT. LIKE WE'D LET THEM SINK HINAMIZAWA, YOU KNOW?

THE SHORT VERSION IS THEY WANTED TO SACRIFICE OUR VILLAGE TO CREATE A RESERVOIR FOR THE COUNTRY.

SINK THE WHOLE VILLAGE ...

GUH (CLENCH)

WE TOOK A LOT OF HARASSMENT.

THE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS PLAYED DIRTY.

IT WAS A TOTAL VICTO-RY!!

AND WHILE THEY DID THAT, THE DAM PROJECT WAS WITH-DRAWN!!

AAAAH HAHA!

YOU WERE UP AGAINST THE NATION.

I'M SUR-PRISED YOU WON.

...WENT TO TALK TO THE STATES-MEN.

THE VILLAGE HEADMAN AND IM-PORTANT PEOPLE IN THE VILLAGE ...

OR A MURDER?

LIKE AN AS-SAULT?

TH-THERE WASN'T ANY VIOLENCE?

HA HA

TO THINK SOMETHING LIKE THAT HAPPENED ...

NONE.

JUST LIKE RENA. A COMPLETE REJECTION.

.....

I FEEL ALIEN-ATED.

I FEEL LIKE THEY'RE KEEPING IT FROM JUST ME.

YEAH. LATER ...

WELL, SEE YOU TOMOR-ROW!

I'M SURE IT'S NOT TRUE, BUT IT FEELS LIKE I'M THE ONLY ONE BEING LEFT OUT.

MIIIIN CHIJIJO MIN MIN MIN...

THE DAM CONSTRUC-TION SITE

...BUT FOR NOW, I'D BETTER GO HELP RENA...

IT WON'T MAKE ME FEEL BET-TER ...

SO THIS IS KENTA-KUN...?

OHH...

IT'S LIKE HE'S BEEN BURIED ALIVE.

W-WELL, WELL ...

WHY WOULD YOU WANT SOMETHING LIKE THAT?

GET OUT OF THE WAY, RENA. I'LL DO IT.

BUN (WAVE)

BUN

UGH, YOU'RE HOPELESS ...

OHH

...IT'S ADOWABLE ...

OHH

IT'S...

OOOOOOF!

WHY YOU!

カナカナカナ...

KANA KANA KANA

OKAY?

YOU'RE SWEATING LIKE CRAZY! DON'T PUSH YOURSELF. LET'S TAKE A BREAK.

HAA (PANT)

NO... BUT...

WE MIGHT NEED AN AXE OR SOMETHING HERE!

WHOOOODAAA!

YOU'RE STUBBORN AS HELL, YOU PIECE OF SCRAP WOOD!

BEK! (WHACK)

BEK!

MAGAZINE: WEEKLY GOSSIP

?

AH, OKAY!

...I'D REALLY LIKE IT IF YOU BROUGHT ME SOME COLD BARLEY TEA OR SOMETHING...

RENA, I'M SORRY, BUT...

YES! LET'S!

...ON SECOND THOUGHT, LET'S TAKE A BREAK.

I'LL GO GET SOME!

TAH (SKIP)

OKAY, YOU REST HERE, OKAY!?

THERE'S NO NEED TO RUSH!!

PATA

PATA (PATTER)

I'LL BE RIGHT BACK!

...AND IF IT WAS AN UNSETTLING INCIDENT ...

...WITH A CHOPPED-UP BODY LIKE TOMITAKE-SAN SAID...

IF THERE REALLY WAS AN INCIDENT IN HINAMIZAWA...

MAGAZINE WEEKLY GOSSIP

=DOSA

DOSA

AND IN A MOUNTAIN OF OLD MAGAZINES LIKE THIS ONE, IT SHOULD BE HERE, RIGHT...?

THERE'S NO WAY THEY WOULDN'T TALK ABOUT IT IN THE WEEKLY MAGAZINES!

DOSA..

IT'S NOT THIS.

HMMM

BASA (FLAP)

NOT THIS EITHER.

BASA

BU (RIP!)

...WOULD BOTH RENA AND MION BE KEEPING QUIET ABOUT...?

EXACTLY WHAT KIND OF "INCIDENT" ...

NOT HERE

NOT HERE, NEXT.

... NEXT.

...KNEW WHAT YEAR THE INCIDENT HAPPENED, THIS WOULD BE SO MUCH EASIER.

PARA

PARA

PARA

PARA (FLIP)

IF I AT LEAST ...

BOOK: HINAMIZAWA / BEATEN, DISMEMBERED / X DAY X MONTH

... AN IN-CIDENT ...

PARA

PARA

MAYBE THERE REALLY WASN'T

PARA ページ...

BOOK: NIGHTMARISH TRAGEDY IN A POOR VILLAGE

FURTHERMORE, THE BODY WAS DIVIDED WITH AN AXE INTO SIX PARTS—HEAD, RIGHT ARM, LEFT ARM, TORSO, RIGHT LEG, LEFT LEG.

BOOK: NIGHTMARISH TRAGEDY / HINAM-ZAWA DAM / BEATEN, DISMEMBERED BODY / X MONTH X DAY XX PREFECTURE, SHISHIBONE CITY THE HINAM-IZAWA DAM PROJECT IS. / BY A SHOCKING INCIDENT THAT SHOOK UP THE ISLANDS. / WHERE THE BODY WAS LEFT.

A BRUTAL KILLING IN WHICH THE MURDERERS HAMMERED THE VICTIM WITH BLOWS FROM HATCHETS AND PICKAXES.

ZAKU (HACK)

...A BEATEN, DISMEMBERED BODY...?

悲惨な事件

×月×日、××県鹿骨市の雛見沢ダム建設作

列島を震撼させたショッキングな事件であ

死体遺棄現場。

の巻

ALSO, THE RIGHT ARM HIDDEN BY "XX" HAS NOT BEEN FOUND.

THE WHEREABOUTS OF THE LEADER OF THE GROUP OF OFFENDERS, "XX," HAVE NOT BEEN DETERMINED.

.....
.....

THAT WAS A TERRIBLE INCIDENT, WASN'T IT?

KEIICHI-KUN.

...WITH AN AXE.

...WAS CHOPPED UP...

THE BODY...

ぎゅっ
ぎゅっ

I-I-I'M SORRY!

KYA!

PETAN (SMACK)

W-WELL, YOU SAID!

WHAT'S WITH THE CLEAVER!?

WHA-

OH, IT'S YOU, RENA!

...

NANA NERD NANA DAN...

I DIDN'T THINK

...YOU'D ACTUALLY BRING ONE...

...WAS IT?

WAS IT A BAD IDEA?

...SO I BROUGHT ONE FROM STORAGE...

YOU SAID IT WOULD HELP TO HAVE AN AXE OR SOMETHING...

THANKS TO YOU BRINGING THAT CLEAVER, WE CAN RESCUE KENTA-KUN TOMORROW, RENA!

ABOUT IT.

KENCHI-KUN...

I can't wait until tomorrow ...I can't

Aha! That's right!

THANK YOU FOR HELPING TODAY!!

SEE YOU LATER!!

YES I'LL BE ALRIGHT

SEE YOU TOMORROW, HUH...

WHEW...

.....

THERE REALLY WAS A DISMEMBERED BODY...

...IN THIS TRANQUIL VILLAGE, HINAMIZAWA.

...ARE CLEARLY TRYING TO HIDE THAT FACT.

AND RENA AND MION...

FLASH

I WANT TO KNOW THE TRUTH.

OR IS THERE SOME OTHER REASON?

CONSIDERATION FOR MY FEELINGS?

WHY?

...THAT MY IDLE CURIOSITY WOULD BE THE TRIGGER FOR A BLOOD-STAINED TRAGEDY.

"I WANT TO KNOW THE TRUTH." ...AT THE TIME, I COULDN'T HAVE POSSIBLY KNOWN...

OMAKE ①

BONUS MANGA "IT'S STUDY TIME"

I=18°
I WISH I COULD HAVE SLEPT LONGER, SIR.
WE'LL GET TO SCHOOL FIRST AND LAY TRAPS LIKE MAD!!
ドドド

SURPRISE THE ENEMY BY LOOKING LIKE A HIGURASHI AND STUN THEM MOTIONLESS.

THEN ACTIVATE THE REAL TRAP!!

TODAY I'LL HAVE MY MAG-NIFICENT REVENGE !!

BAH! (TURN!)

SATOKOOOOO!! DON'T THINK YOU HAVE A PATENT ON TRAPS!!

SUKA (BRUSH)

ACTIVATION SWITCH

WASHTUB

TAKE THIS! WASHTUB ATTACK!!

KANA (CHIRP) KANA KANA...
カナカナカナ…
KANA KANA KANA...
カナカナカナ…

SHIRT: HIGURASHI

I CAN'T GET A GRIP ON THE ROPE WITH MY CICADA HANDS...

GAAAAAN (CLAAAAING)

BY THE WAY, THOSE ARE ABURAZEMI BROWN CICADA WINGS.

BROWN AND HARD

HIGURASHI WINGS LOOK LIKE THIS.

TRANSPAR-ENT AND DELICATE

OHHHH!! I'M TAKING YOU HOME WITH ME!!

CHAPTER 2: THE NIGHT OF THE COTTON DRIFTING

A BRUTAL MURDER AND DISMEMBERMENT HAPPENED IN HINAMIZAWA FOUR YEARS AGO.

MEGUCHA (SPLORCH)

NEITHER THE VICTIM'S SEVERED RIGHT ARM NOR THE LEADER OF THE MURDERERS HAVE BEEN FOUND.

IT IS A CREEPY INCIDENT, BUT...

DISMEMBERED BODY, HUH...?

WHY ARE RENA AND MION HIDING IT...?

THESE DOUBTS WEIGHED HEAVILY INSIDE ME.

URK ...

WHAT'S THE MATTER, KEI-CHAN?

BAIIIIN (BOOOING)

UNNGH!

WHAT'S THE MATTER, MASTER?

POYON (BOUNCE)

ぽよん

...THE DOUBTS WEIGHED HEAVILY...

... ... UMMM ...

WASHA (RUFFLE)

わしゃわしゃ

WASHA

THE DOUBTS FADED AS WE WENT ON HAVING FUN EVERY DAY.

BAN! (BAM!)

UWAA AAAH! I WIN !!!

URK.

ZU! (CLEAN)

UWAH!

THEY WEIGHED HEAVILY ON ME, BUT!?

ZUI (CLEAN)

SATOKO! TEA!

KUH... YES, ONII-CHAN!

(BAN! (BAM!)

NNGH ...

MION! THAT'S NOT ENOUGH WIND!

DON! (BAM!)

MUG. DEMON

AND I, KEIICHI MAEBARA, AM NOW AT THE PINNACLE OF HAPPINESS.

KEIICHI-KU... MASTER, PLEASE DON'T ROLL YOUR HEAD BACK AND FORTH...

SOYO (FAN)

SOYO

EEK!

H-HEAVEN ON EARTH...!

DO-DON! (DA-DAN!)

WE'RE LETTING KEI-CHAN GO A LITTLE TOO WILD.

TODAY'S "CLUB ACTIVITY" IS THE CARD GAME RICH MAN, POOR MAN.

BANNER: WIN! KEIICHI!!

WE SUPPORT YOU WITH EVERYTHING WE'VE GOT!

AND THOSE PAPERS HAVE RIDICULOUS PENALTIES ON THEM.

勝て！圭一!!

FROM HIS LECHEROUS HEART, SIR.

FOR THE PENALTY GAME, THE LOSER DRAWS A PIECE OF PAPER.

WHERE DID KE!... ONI-CHAN LEARN TO BE SO GOOD AT CARDS!?

TODAY, I WON LIKE CRAZY AND CREATED HEAVEN!!

WEAR A SCHOOL SWIMSUIT AND FAN WITH A FEATHER FAN.

WEAR A P.E. UNIFORM AND TALK LIKE A MAID.

WEAR PANDA EARS AND TALK LIKE A LITTLE SISTER.

WEAR CAT EARS, A BELL, AND A TAIL.

.....

WAAAAHH

YOU'RE GETTING TOO CARRIED AWAY!!

I'M INVINCIBLE!! THE WORLD WILL BE MINE!!

ADDWABLE

WHAT IS IT? IS IT?

RENA ...

RIKA-CHAN?

NIPA (BEAM)

KEIICHI, YOU SHOULD KNOW WHEN ENOUGH IS ENOUGH, SIR.

...you can take me home with you, sir.

If you beat Keiichi, Rena...

SFX: GOGOGOGOGOGO (RUMBLE)

K-KEIICHI-KUN! LET'S PLAY CARDS!

YOU CAN TRY AS HARD AS YOU WANT! THE RESULTS WILL BE THE SAME!!

OHH-HH!

I'M TAKING RIKA-CHAN HOME WITH ME!!!

R-R-R-RENA CHALLENGES YOU!

BABABABABABA (SHUFFLE)

O-HO-HO

NOW, THEN ...

...TIME TO DRAW YOUR LOT FOR THE PENALTY GAME.

UTTER DEFEAT.

PATA (COLLAPSE)

SFX: AAAAAAAHHHH!

THE GODS HAVE GIVEN ME MY COMEUP-PANCE...

OH YEAH, RENA GOES SUPERHUMAN WHEN SHE SEES SOMETHING "ADOWABLE"!

EEP...!

I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT THIS MEANS.

UM.

全部。

PAPER: ALL

...AND WEAR A SCHOOL SWIMSUIT! ♡

...TALK LIKE A LITTLE BROTHER AND A MAID...

...YOU WEAR CAT EARS, A BELL, AND A TAIL...

IT MEANS YOU TAKE ALL OF THE PENALTIES WE'VE SEEN SO FAR.

IN OTHER WORDS ...

全部

DO-DO-BAN! (DU-DU-DUN!)

HUR-RYYYY!

BEEEP.

K-K-K-K-KEIICHI-KUN.

UWA-AAH

I-I FEEL FOR YOU.

KEIICHI-KUN, YOU'RE ADOWABLE ...!!

PLEASE GIVE ME A BREAK, MASTER...

GYA HA HA HA!!

CHIRIIIIN JINGLE

ONEE-CHAN ONEE-CHAN ONEE-CHAN ONEE-CHAN ONEE-CHAN GRRRRAH!!

O-HO!

YOU'RE NOT LITTLE BROTH-ERLY ENOUGH!!

HO-HO

YOU'RE SO ADOW-ABLE WHEN YOU SLOUCH...!

DAMMIT... YES, ONEE-CHAN...

KEIICHI-SAN, I WOULD LIKE SOME TEA, PLEASE.

I-I'LL PASS, MASTER...

WANNA LOOK IN A MIRROR? ...IT'S SERIOUSLY INCREDIBLE. YOU SHOULD SEE IT.

RIKA ISN'T A DELIN-QUENT LIKE YOU, KEIICHI-SAN.

THE TEACHER CALLED RIKA-CHAN...? DID SHE DO SOMETHING?

THIS IS RARE.

AH YES, SIR.

FURUDE-SAN. DO YOU HAVE A MINUTE?

GARARA (RATTLE)

SHE'LL BE BUSY GETTING THINGS READY FOR A WHILE, SO I GUESS WE'LL HAVE TO PUT CLUB ACTIVITIES ON HOLD UNTIL THE COTTON DRIFTING FESTIVAL.

RIKA-CHAN IS ON THE FESTIVAL COMMITTEE.

WE'LL BE DOING IT AGAIN THIS YEAR.

YOU CAN FIND OUT ON THE DAY OF THE FESTIVAL.

SU (SSK)

IS THAT LIKE A LANTERN DRIFT-ING?

COTTON DRIFTING...?

BARARA

DID YOU COME BACK JUST TO EXPLAIN?

IN OTHER WORDS, WE'LL HAVE CLUB ACTIVITIES WHILE GOING AROUND THE BOOTHS, SIR.

WE'LL PULL THE FESTIVAL BOOTHS UP BY THE ROOTS!

"COTTON DRIFTING FIVE-WAY EXPLOSIVE BATTLE" !!

YEAH, I CAN'T WAIT!

I THINK IT'LL BE REALLY FUN!

LET'S ALL GO TO THE FESTIVAL TOGETHER!

WHY CAN'T I EVER GET THE WORDS "MURDERED, DISMEMBERED BODY" OUT OF MY HEAD...?

EVERY DAY IS SO MUCH FUN, SO WHY?

カナカナカナ
KANA KANA KANA (CHIRP)

...ON THE DAY OF THE COTTON DRIFTING...

AND ...

カナカナカナ
KANA KANA KANA

IS KEIICHI-KUN HERE?

カチャ
KACHA (KA-CHAK)

OH, RENA-CHAN. HELLO.

YOU COULD HAVE JUST WAITED AT OUR MEETING SPOT.

THANK YOU FOR TAKING SUCH GOOD CARE OF OUR KEIICHI.

!

UWAH! SHE'S HERE TO GET ME AL-READY !?

KEIICHI, RENA-CHAN'S HERE!

O-OBA-SAMA...
NO, I...I... I KNOW I'M INEXPE-RIENCED, BUT...

WE'RE LEAV-ING!!
RENA WILL GIVE HER LIFE IF NECESSARY~
TAKE CARE OF KEIICHI.
OHHH

WHAT DOES SHE MEAN INEXPE-RIENCED !?
SHE'S NOT INTRODUC-ING HER-SELF AS MY BRIDE!!

SIGN: OKONOMIYAKI
SIGN: BANANAS
ZAWA
ZAWA
FURUDE SHRINE.
ZAWA (MURMUR)

SIGNS: OKONOMIYAKI / ICE

I DIDN'T REALIZE HINAMIZAWA HAD SO MANY PEOPLE...

YOUR HAND IS SO WARM, KEIICHI-KUN.

ドキ... DOK (D-DUMP)

...IS IT?

IS THIS A DATE?

ドキドキ DOKI DOKI

ドキ DOK

WHY IS MY HEART POUNDING?

I CAN'T LOOK HER IN THE FACE!!

DO (THUMP)

WHA—?

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING!? COME ON, LET'S GO.

だ

HUH?

EH?

DON

DON

OH, GOOD...

DON (POUND)

YOU SEEM TO ALWAYS BE THINKING ABOUT SOMETHING LATELY...

YOU CHEERED UP, KEIICHI-KUN!

THAT'S ENOUGH, YOU TWO!

そば

...SORRY. THANKS ...

I...

SHE WAS WORRIED ABOUT ME...?

...RENA ...

PACHIN (KAPLING)

OW!

A GUN!?

HEH HEH HEH...

CHA (CLICK)

MION!? AND SATOKO AND RIKA-CHAN!

HELLO, KEI-CHAAAAN ♪

HO HO

HO HO!

RI-RIKA-CHAN, YOU'RE ADOW-ABLE...

IT LOOKS REAL.

OH, IT'S A *TOY* GUN.

NOW WE'RE ALL HERE!

THAT PRIESTESS OUTFIT LOOKS GOOD ON YOU.

NIPA (BEAM)

[redacted] WEARING THAT COSTUME BECAUSE SHE HAS AN IMPORTANT JOB IN THE FESTIVAL

MY OBATCHA MADE IT! DOESN'T IT LOOK OFFICIAL?

YOU'RE AWFULLY ENTHUSIASTIC, KEIICHI-SAN!!

DARN RIGHT! AND I WON'T LOSE, ESPECIALLY NOT TO YOU, SATOKO!!

GOGOGO (RUMBLE)

LET'S PLAY RIGHT NOW!

MY JOB IS AT THE END OF THE FESTIVAL, SO I CAN STILL PLAY WITH YOU, SIR.

YEAH!

YES!

YEAH!

...A TA-KOYAKI SPEED-EATING CONTEST!!

FIRST...

THEN LET'S GET START-ED.

SUH (RAISE SCORE)

BOX: TAKO

YOU FOOL! SATOKO!!

SPAAA (SPEED)

HAFU (HOMPH)

I WON'T LOSE!!

...HI-HO-HEE HIH HE HINE HAN HINE AHONE!!

(...VICTORY WILL BE MINE AND MINE ALONE!!)

BAKUN (CHOMP!)

IH HI EE HEM AW A HUNCE...

(IF I EAT THEM ALL AT ONCE...)

IT'S LAUGHABLE THAT YOU WOULD TRY TO EAT THEM ONE AT A TIME!!

DOSU (STAB)

DOSU

YOU'RE THE FOOL, KEIICHI-SAN.

KEIICHI-KUN, ARE YOU OKAY!?

AH! HOT! HOT! GAAAHH!?

AH! HA! HA!

カ

KASHA! (FLASH!)

AH.

TOMITAKE-SAN!

HEY, EVERYONE, I SEE YOU'RE ALL DOING WELL!

LONG TIME NO SEE, KEIICHI-KUN!

NIKO (GRIN)

NICE TO SEE YOU AGAIN.

PEKORI (BOW)

APPARENTLY HE'S NOT FROM HINAMIZAWA, BUT...HE'S KIND OF SUSPICIOUS.

WHEN I SEE THIS MAN, I THINK OF THAT DISMEMBERED BODY, WHETHER I WANT TO OR NOT.

YOU ALL KNOW EACH OTHER?

ARE THE PICTURES YOU TOOK TODAY GOING TO BE IN A MAGAZINE OR SOMETHING?

YOU'RE A PHOTOGRAPHER, RIGHT?

THANKS TO ALL OF YOU, I GOT LOTS OF GOOD PICTURES TODAY.

TOMITAKE THE OJI-SAMA COMES TO HINAMIZAWA TWO OR THREE TIMES A YEAR.

WE'RE WAITING FOR YOU TO HAVE YOUR OWN SHOW!

COME ON, HURRY AND HAVE YOUR MAJOR DEBUT!

SO HE'S A PHOTOGRAPHER WHO HAS YET TO DEBUT...

?

URK... ABOUT THAT...

THIS REALLY IS A GREAT PLACE.

I HATE TO GO BACK TO TOKYO TOMORROW.

HEH HEH

HE SEEMS TO BE FRIENDS WITH EVERY-ONE, SO I GUESS HE'S NOT A BAD GUY.

SINCE HE'S HERE, WE WANT TO GIVE HIM SOME GOOD MEMO-RIES!

AH...! HEY, HEY!

WHY DON'T WE LET TOMITAKE-SAN JOIN OUR CLUB ACTIVITIES!?

EH?

I GRANT MR. TOMITAKE ENTRY INTO OUR CLUB!!

WE'LL RECOG-NIZE YOU AS AN HONORARY CITIZEN!

EEHH?

BAN! (BAM!)

OUR RULES SAY ONLY PEOPLE FROM HINAMI-ZAWA CAN JOIN, BUT...

I THINK IT'S A GOOD IDEA TOO, SIR.

NIPA (BEAM)

...WELL, HE DOES COME BY REGULARLY EVERY YEAR.

SUH... (BRUSH...)

HE'S LIKE I WAS UNTIL A WHILE AGO.

OUR CLUB, YOU SEE, SOMETIMES FROM FAVORABLE CIRCUM-STANCES OR FROM ADVERSITY, WE MANAGE TO...

RENA'S NOT VERY GOOD, SO I HOPE YOU DON'T TEASE ME.

WH-WHAT ARE YOUR CLUB ACTIVITIES?

...IN OTHER WORDS, OUR CLUB PLAYS GAMES, SIR.

NIPA

ARE YOU ANY MATCH FOR ME, I WON-DER!?

YEAH!

WAAAAAAAHHH!

ALLLLRIGHT! PLEASE GO EASY ON ME, SENPAIS!

GAMES, HUH? YEAH, SOUNDS FUN.

OOHH! LITTLE MISS SONOZAKI!

YOU'VE GOT QUITE THE GROUP THIS YEAR!

DON (POUND)

SIGNS: CHOCOLATE BANANAS /TAKO—

BANG

OTCHAN! YOU GOT ANYTHING RARE?

THIS YEAR'S MAIN EVENT WILL BE THE SHOOTING GALLERY!

TAKE A LOOK AT THIS! YOU WON'T SEE THIS ANYWHERE ELSE!!

THAT BEAR'S HUGE!

HM, NOT BAD.

DO-DON! (DU-DUM!)

NO OBJECTIONS!

ZAWA

ZAWA (MURMUR)

WE'LL HAVE A CONTEST TO SEE WHO GETS THE BIGGEST PRIZE IN THREE SHOTS!

AND OF COURSE, LAST PLACE PLAYS THE PENALTY GAME!

ARE YOU GONNA GO RIGHT FOR THE BIG ONE?

CHA (CLICK)

THIS OLD MAN'LL START IT OFF!

PA-PA-PAN' (PO-PO-POP!)

TODAY I'LL START WITH SOMETHING RELIABLE.

AIRSOFT GUN
DO-DO-DON!
(BA-BA-BAM!)
WHOA! SHE GOT A PRIZE WITH EACH SHOT!!

YOU NEXT, RENA? BE CARE-FUL.

THAT'S OUR MION.
SO RATHER THAN GO FOR THE BIG ONE, SHE AIMED FOR PRIZES SHE KNEW SHE COULD KNOCK DOWN.

KYUMU (SPARKLE)
THE BULLETS ARE LIGHT. IT'LL BE PRETTY ROUGH KNOCKING THE BEAR DOWN.
RIRARIN (SPARKLE)

MR. BEAR'S SO ADOR-ABLE!
I GUESS IT'S USELESS TO SAY ANY-THING NOW.

YOU'RE UNDER-ESTIMATING RENA...

WHEN RENA RYU-GU GOES INTO "AD-OWABLE" MODE...

HEH.

WILL SHE BE OKAY...? I HOPE SHE HITS *SOME-THING.*

GO! RENA!!

I GUARAN TEE IT!

...SHE CAN EVEN HIT A PIN-HOLE!

I-I-I-I'M TAKING YOU HOME WITH ME!!

BAAAN! (POOOW!)

BISHI! (WHACK!)

SHE DEFINITELY KNOCKED IT OFF BALANCE!!

IT'S SWAYING... HOW ADORABLE...

SHE'S GOT SHARP AIM!

WAAAAHH

THIS IS YOUR LAST SHOT!!

DON (WHAM.)

AH...

SHIN (SILENCE.)

BOX: CARAMEL Z

ZAWA (MURMUR...)

NICE TRY! YOU GET A PRIZE FOR YOUR EFFORT!

THAT TARGET IS TOO BIG FOR JUST ONE PERSON TO KNOCK DOWN, SIR.

...IT MAY BE IMPOS-SIBLE, EVEN FOR RENA, SIR.

RIKA?

AAAHH

はぅ...

DHH

RENA...

パチ

PACHI

パチ

MR. BEAR...I WANT TO TAKE YOU HOME WITH ME...

THAT WAS INCRED-IBLE, YOUNG LADY!

THAT WAS A GOOD TRY, RENA!

PACHI

PACHI

PACHI (CLAP)

AL-RIGHT... RENA, I'LL—!

GRIP CLENCHED

I CAN'T WATCH THIS...

I'll get that bear for you.

ZUBE (FALL)

THANK YOU, TOMITAKE-SAN!

YOU TOO, KEIICHI. SIR FIGHT! YEAH!

HE STOLE MY LINE!

GOOD LUCK, TOMITAKE-SAAAN!

WHAT'S HE DOING WITH TWO GUNS?

KACHA (CLICK)

カチャ

KEH

EH?

YOU, TAKE THIS.

...WHAT?

KEIICHI-KUN.

?

DON (POW)

GET READY TO GO NEXT.

GIRI (GRIT)...

KEI-ICHI-KUN!

BUT IT'S NO GOOD. EVEN TOMITAKE-SAN ISN'T ENOUGH!

WHOA, HE'S A FAST SHOT !!

DON

DON (WHAM)

I GET IT!

GUH... (CLENCH)

NOW!!

IF WE BOTH HIT IT IN SUCCES-SION!!

DOOOON (WHAAAAM)

GORORI (ROLL)

WE I

WE DID IT...

KYA ...

WE KNOCKED IT DOWN!!

WOOOOOHHH (WHOOOOAAA)

COME ON, YOU HAVE TO GO MAKE HER HAPPY.
PON (PAT)
IT'S THANKS TO YOU, TOMITAKE-SAN...
CON-GRATU-LATIONS, KEIICHI-KUN!
I THINK JUST A LITTLE MORE HIGHLY OF YOU.
WAAAAHH

YOU CAN HAVE HIM.
BOSUN (POFF)
KEIICHI-KUN, THAT WAS AMAZ-ING!
RENA!

YOU'VE HELPED ME OUT WITH SO MUCH SINCE I MOVED HERE.
I MAY NOT LOOK IT, BUT I AM GRATEFUL.
E-EEHH!?

KEI-ICHI-KUN ...

RENA, UM...

...THANKS FOR EVERYTHING.

KYAAA!

MMGHCK !!

BASSHIIIN! (WWHHHHHAP!)

LOOK AT THEM, ALL LOVEY-DOVEY!

BUT THERE ARE LOTS OF THINGS HERE YOU CAN'T FIND ANYWHERE ELSE.

AAAAH-HA-HA-HA!

DAMMIT, MION!

HINAMIZAWA IS A COUNTRY TOWN WITH NOTHING IN IT.

IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT HAPPENED IN HINAMIZAWA'S PAST.

I WILL ALWAYS TREASURE THE HAPPINESS I HAVE NOW.

ZAWA

ZAWA

?

BOW

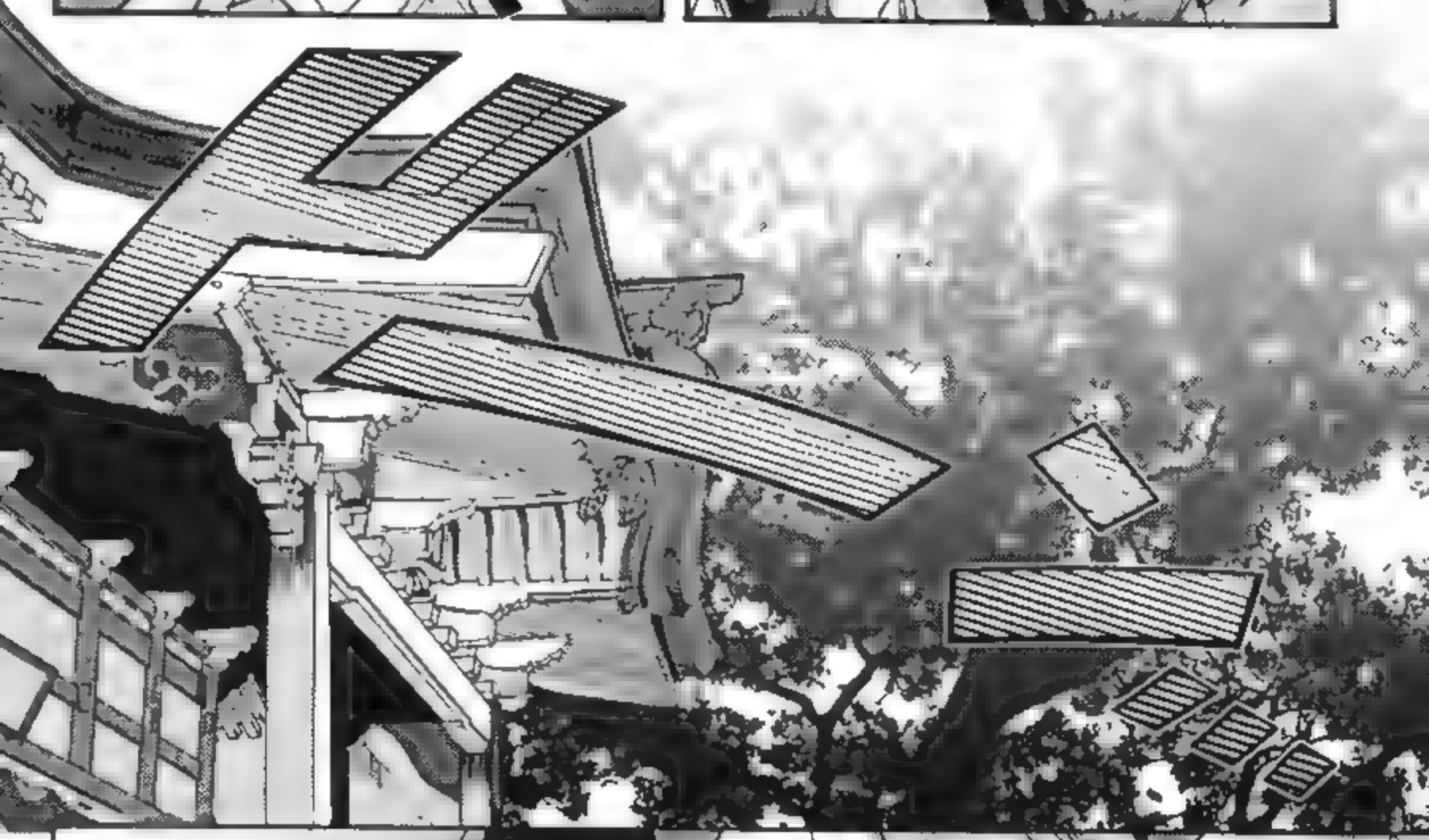
BOW

UWAH !!

THIS IS SOME CROWD...

DON
BE QUIET! RIKA'S ON.
DON

IT'S CALLED THE "DANCE OFFER-ING."
THE BIGGEST EVENT IS ABOUT TO START.



ポン

SO RIKA-CHAN'S JOB WAS TO BE THE PRIESTESS IN THE CEREMONY...

A HOE AND .. IS THAT A FUTON? WHAT A WEIRD CEREMONY.

わっしょい

わっしょい

ドドド

SARA

SARA (FLOW)

OYASHIRO-SAMA IS...

...WHAT'S OYASHIRO-SAMA?

SARA

THANK YOU, OYASHIRO-SAMA.

OYASHIRO-SAMA...

"THANK YOU, OYASHIRO-SAMA." SAY THE PRAYER, SET THE COTTON ADRIFT, AND THEN IT'S OVER.

HMMM...

...HINAMIZAWA'S GUARDIAN DEITY.

OYASHIRO-SAMA, HUH...?

SARA

SARA

SAAA... (SIIIGH...)

THE CROWD'S THINNED OUT.

HEY, THE CEREMONY'S OVER NOW, RIGHT?

...OH WELL. I'LL RUN INTO HER SOON ENOUGH.

ZARI... (CRUNCH...)

...I GUESS WE GOT SEPA-RATED.

HUH? RENA?

THAT'S ...

GOOD EVE-NING, KEIICHI-KUN.

YES, THANK YOU.

DID YOU GET ANY GOOD PICTURES, TOMITAKE-SAN?

KUSU (CHUCKLE)

DID YOU ENJOY THE FESTIVAL?

OH... I'M GLAD.

KUSU KUSU

I THINK I'VE MET HER...WHO WAS SHE AGAIN?

AH, HELLO... I HAD A LOT OF FUN.

OH, YOU WANT TO KNOW?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN...?

YOU MAY BE THE ONLY ONE...

...WHO SINCERELY ENJOYED THE FESTIVAL.

UNSET-TLING?

HEY, HEY. YOU SHOULDN'T TALK ABOUT THAT. IT'S UNSETTLING.

MY, YOU HAVE GOOD INSTINCTS. THAT'S RIGHT.

COULD IT HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE DIS-MEMBERED BODY!?

.....
NGH...

IT MIGHT BE BETTER NOT TO ASK, BUT...

...YOU MIGHT REGRET IT, YOU KNOW.

DO YOU REALLY WANT TO HEAR ABOUT IT?

HAA... (SIGH)

KUSU

PLEASE TELL ME...

ZAAAAHH (WHOOOOSH)

P—

...THERE WAS AN INCIDENT IN WHICH THE DIRECTOR OF THE DAM CONSTRUCTION PROJECT WAS KILLED AND DISMEMBERED.

THE NIGHT OF THE COTTON DRIFTING FOUR YEARS AGO...

HIS RIGHT ARM STILL HASN'T BEEN FOUND TO THIS DAY.

WHAT DOES THAT HAVE TO DO WITH THE FESTIVAL?

KUSU (CHUCKLE)

FOR SOME REASON RENA AND MION WERE HIDING IT, BUT...

THAT'S WHAT IT SAID IN THE WEEKLY MAGAZINES...

...OF EVENTS?

A SERIES ...

THE WHEREABOUTS OF THE WIFE'S BODY ARE UNKNOWN.

...WERE ON A TRIP AND FELL TO THEIR DEATHS IN THE MUDDY RAPIDS AT THE BOTTOM OF A CLIFF.

...A HUSBAND AND WIFE FROM THE VILLAGE WHO ACTIVELY SUPPORTED THE DAM PROJECT...

THE NIGHT OF THE FOLLOWING YEAR'S COTTON DRIFTING ...

BEGINNING THE FOLLOWING YEAR, A SERIES OF ODD EVENTS EMERGED.

CHUCKLE CHUCKLE

...DIED SUDDENLY OF A MYSTERIOUS DISEASE, CAUSE UNKNOWN.

...A PRIEST AT FURUDE SHRINE WHO WAS PASSIVE IN THE ANTI-DAM MOVEMENTS...

THE NEXT YEAR ON THE NIGHT OF THE COTTON DRIFT-ING...

.....

KUSU.

HIS WIFE DROWNED HERSELF THAT NIGHT.

APPARENTLY SHE WAS RELATED TO THE COUPLE WHO DIED TWO YEARS BEFORE WHO ACTIVELY SUPPORTED THE DAM.

...A NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSEWIFE WAS FOUND BEATEN TO DEATH.

A YEAR LATER, ON THE NIGHT OF THE COTTON DRIFT-ING...

THAT'S WHY THESE MYSTERIOUS CASES HAVE COME TO BE CALLED...

W-WAIT A SECOND...

...SO...

...

"OYASHIRO-SAMA'S CURSE."

YES.

SOME-ONE DIES EVERY YEAR ON THE DAY OF THE COTTON DRIFTING.

AND THEY'RE ALL PEOPLE WHO WERE HELPING TO SINK THE VILLAGE IN THE DISPUTES OVER THE DAM.

...A CURSE? IN THE SHOUWA ERA...?

TODAY'S FESTIVAL WAS QUITE BUSTLING, WASN'T IT?

CHIRP CHIRP

THOSE ACCURSED PEOPLE WHO DON'T GO TO THE FESTIVAL WILL FACE OYASHIRO-SAMA'S ANGER.

THAT'S THE RUMOR THAT GOES AROUND NOW.

OH REALLY

WHO DO YOU THINK, KEI-ICHI-KUN?

WHO KNOWS...?

S-SO...

WHO DIED AT THE NEXT YEAR'S COTTON FESTIVAL?

WHAAA!

WH...

NOW, NOW, CALM DOWN.

I'M SERIOUS HERE...!

PLEASE DON'T DODGE THE QUES-TION!

THE "FOLLOWING YEAR'S COTTON DRIFTING"...

WE DIDN'T REALLY MEAN TO DODGE THE QUESTION.

KUSU (CHUCKLE)

...IS, AFTER ALL...

TODAY.

TO-
NIGHT
...

...
SOMEBODY...
IS GOING
TO DIE?

FOUR
YEARS
IN A ROW,
SOMEONE
HAS DIED
ON THE
DAY OF THE
COTTON
DRIFTING.

CAN THAT
REALLY BE
A COINCI-
DENCE?

I WONDER
IF THAT
WAS TOO
MUCH OF
A SHOCK
AFTER
ALL?

AH...
N-NO...

DON'T
TELL ME
THERE'S
REALLY...

...A CURSE
HERE IN
HINAMIZAWA...?

NOT...
AT
ALL...

THERE WAS NOTHING SUSPICIOUS ABOUT THE DEATHS.

THEY JUST ALL HAPPENED TO DIE ON THE SAME DAY IS ALL.

NOTHING'S GOING TO HAPPEN THIS YEAR.

IT'S OKAY, KEIICHI-KUN.

PON (PAT)

EVEN IF THERE WAS SUCH A THING AS "OYASHIRO-SAMA'S CURSE"...

...YOU LOVE HINAMIZAWA, KEIICHI-KUN. I CAN'T IMAGINE THAT YOU WOULD BE CURSED.

GUM CCLENCHD

NOW THEN...I MUST BE GETTING BACK.

THIS WAS FUN, KEIICHI-KUN. ...I'LL SEE YOU LATER, JIROU-SAN.

TOMI-TAKE-SAN...

IS THIS WHAT RENA AND MION WERE HIDING...?

"OYA-SHIRO-SAMA'S CURSE."

AH, RENA. GUYS...

KEIICHI-KUUUUN! I'M SORRY!!

IS THE ONE WHO DIDN'T GET ANY-THING— MR. TOMITAKE!!

PACHI (CLAP)

AND SO, LAST PLACE IN TODAY'S CLUB ACTIVITIES!

CONGRAT-ULATIONS !!

EH!?

PACHI

SO TOMITAKE-SAN IS WITH YOU! PERFECT!

SORRY. WE GOT COMPLETELY WRAPPED UP IN WHAT WE WERE TALKING ABOUT.

BOXES: APOPO, CARAMEL Z

RIKA AND I BOTH GOT PRIZES AT THE SHOOTING GALLERY!

DON! (BAM!)

ARE YOU PREPARED TO MEET YOUR FATE?

GETE

GETE (CACKLE)

LAST PLACE HAS TO PLAY THE PENALTY GAME, YOU KNOW.

UUUWAAAH!!

WE SENTENCE YOU TO THE GRAFFITI PENALTY!

うわ

UWAAAAH!

THIS IS WHY YOU CAN'T LOSE IN OUR CLUB.

HEH HEH HEH

EH? AH! I FORGOT!

SIGN: CHOCOLATE BANANAS

TH-THIS IS...

HUH?

今年はメジャーデビューだお

YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE YOUR MAJOR DEBUT THIS YEAR
—MON

魅音

"PLEASE LET US SEE YOUR PHOTOS NEXT TIME, OKAY?"

YAH, LAST PLACE! SATOKO

LET'S DO OUR BEST NEXT TIME -R KA

.....

KYUPON (SQUEA-POP)

TOMITAKE-SAN.

THIS ISN'T A PENALTY GAME; IT'S A COLLECTION OF WRITING.

...THANK YOU, EVERYONE ...

"COME PLAY WITH US AGAIN" —KEIICHI

.....

THIS WILL BE MY GREATEST TREASURE ...

...TOMITAKE-SAN'S GONE.

I'LL SEE YOU AT SCHOOL TOMOR-ROW, SIR.

THE FESTIVAL IS OVER TOO, SIR.

NIDA (BEAM.)

EH...? RIKA-CHAN?

HAPPINESS ISN'T ETERNAL.

YEAH ...?

SAAA SHIGH

サァァ...

I'M SURE RENA DIDN'T WANT TO TOUCH ON THE DEATHS BECAUSE SHE'S AFRAID OF THE CURSE.

"SOMEONE DIES EVERY YEAR ON THE NIGHT OF THE COTTON DRIFTING." THAT IS "OYASHIRO-SAMA'S CURSE."

BUT THERE'S ALSO A HIGH POSSIBILITY THAT THE PAST INCIDENTS WERE UNFORTUNATE COINCIDENCES.

WE'LL GO BACK TO OUR NORMAL, EVERYDAY LIFE.

IF NOTHING HAPPENS TODAY, IT WILL MEAN THERE IS NO CURSE.

THAT'S RIGHT, ISN'T IT, RENA...?

NOTHING IS GOING TO HAPPEN TODAY.

YOU'RE WEIRD, KEIICHI-KUN.

NOTHING.

WH-WHAT ...?

BU

... WHAT IS?

EH? WHAT IS?

A DEAD... HIGURASHI?

NO ONE IS GOING TO DIE. NOTHING IS GOING TO HAPPEN.

OF COURSE THERE'S NO CURSE.

YOU'RE IN A GOOD MOOD TODAY, KEI-CHAN.

AM I?

NIKOOOO CGRIIIND

RIIIIIN (BUZZZ)

RIIIIIN

THE NEXT DAY...

NOW THEN, CLUB IS NOW IN SESSION!

SO THERE REALLY ISN'T ANY CURSE!

HEH HEH HEH

EVERYONE IS IN CLASS TODAY, AND NOTHING SEEMS UNUSUAL.

I HAVE NO IDEA WHY.

THE TEACHER'S CALLING YOU?

HO

HO

SOMEONE TO SEE ME? THIS IS A FIRST.

SOMEONE'S HERE AT THE ENTRANCE TO SEE YOU.

MAEBARA-KUN? ARE YOU HERE?

YOU THINK THINGS WILL GO SO WELL?

ALLL-RIGHT! TODAY VIC-TORY WILL BE MINE AGAIN!

GARARA (RATTLE)

I'M SORRY FOR PULLING YOU OUT HERE.

I AM OOISHI, OF THE OKINOMIYA POLICE.

IRA

IRA

...YOU'RE KEIICHI MAEBARA-SAN, CORRECT?

POLICE?

YES, THAT'S RIGHT

NN HA HA

IT'S HOT IN HERE...WHY DON'T WE TALK IN MY CAR?

NOW, NOW. I'M NOT GOING TO CATCH AND EAT YOU.

IF YOU WANT TO TALK TO ME, I'D PREFER THAT YOU DO IT HERE.

...IF YOU'RE NOT GOING TO TALK TO ME, THEN I'M LEAVING.

HE SURE IS SUSPI-CIOUS.

...HUH?

WHAT IS THIS? HE HASN'T EVEN TOLD ME WHY HE'S HERE.

GET TO THE POINT ALREADY...

WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM?

FOR YOUR OWN SAKE.

I THINK IT WOULD BE BETTER IF YOU LISTENED.

JIROU TOMITAKE-SAN PASSED AWAY LAST NIGHT.

MIIIIN (BJZZZZZ)

SOMEONE DIES EVERY YEAR ON THE DAY OF THE COTTON DRIFTING.

IT'S BELIEVED THAT THE DIRECT CAUSE OF DEATH WAS SELF-INFLICTED SCRATCHING AT HIS THROAT USING HIS FINGERNAILS.

LIKE THIS... SCRATCH, SCRATCH...

...BUT THE INCIDENT WAS TRULY BIZARRE.

I DON'T WANT TO BROAD-CAST THIS...

MAEBARA-SAN?

BANG (GUNSHOT)

TOMITAKE-SAN WAS SMILING WHEN I TALKED TO HIM YESTERDAY.

IT MAKES NO SENSE.

WHAT IS THIS GUY SAY-ING?

WHY WOULD HE CLAW UP HIS THROAT...

...AND DIE?

IS HE SAYING OYASHIRO-SAMA'S CURSE HAS STRUCK AGAIN...?

PARA (FLIP)
PARA

IT WOULD SEEM THAT RIGHT BEFORE HIS DEATH, HE WAS SURROUNDED BY MULTIPLE PERSONS AND TRIED TO RESIST WITH A PIECE OF SQUARED LUMBER.

THERE WAS EVIDENCE ON TOMITAKE-SAN'S BODY THAT HE HAD BEEN ATTACKED.

IT'S NOT A CURSE. AND FUR-THER-MORE ...

THIS IS A FULL-FLEDGED MURDER CASE.

EH?

HE WAS ATTACKED? BY MULTIPLE PEOPLE!?

HINAMIZAWA IS A SMALL VILLAGE, SO EVERYBODY KNOWS EVERYBODY.

SOMEONE DIES EVERY YEAR ON THE DAY OF THE COTTON DRIFTING.

AND THEY'RE ALL PEOPLE WHO WERE HELPING TO SINK THE VILLAGE IN THE DISPUTES OVER THE DAM.

...THERE IS A POSSIBILITY THAT THE MURDER WAS COMMITTED BY THE VILLAGE.

IT CAN'T BE... NO.

SERIAL MURDERS, CARRIED OUT AND CONCEALED BY THE VILLAGE.

IS THIS THE REAL REASON RENA AND MION KEPT THEIR MOUTHS SHUT!?

KEIICHI MAEBARA-SAN.

SO YOU'LL LISTEN TO WHAT I HAVE TO SAY?

OMAKE ②

BONUS MANGA: "MAID IN HEAVEN"

I'M ACTI-VATING MY CHARAC-TERISTIC-BARRIER !!
MAID IN HEAVEN WILL ONLY BE PERFECT WHEN IT HAS A COMPLETE SET!
WHAT'S A CHARAC-TERISTIC-BARRIER?

NO, WE WON'T LET THEM GET OUT OF IT!!

ZORO CLINE UP-9.

D...

IS IT UNFAIR FOR ONLY THE BOYS TO GET OUT OF IT?

...IS IT?

THIS IS TRUE EQUAL-ITY!!

STAY AWAY! I-I MEAN, WELCOME...

THERE'S NO GENDER DISCRIMA-TION IN HINAMIZA-WA!

HA HA

HA HA

ANGEL-MORT

HINAMIZAWA ... A DREADFUL VILLAGE...

GIVE ME A BREAK! DAMMIT !!

ZURU ZURU (DRAG DRAG)

OHHH, I'M TAKING YOU HOME WITH ME!!

THE STRONGEST NOVEL GAME

WHAT IS "HIGURASHI WHEN THEY CRY"!?

"HIGURASHI WHEN THEY CRY" IS A PC VERSION DOUJIN NOVEL GAME THAT WAS PRESENTED AT A DOUJINSHI CONVENTION. BUT IT HAS CROSSED THAT BARRIER AND ENTERED THE WORLD OF COMICS, DRAMA CDS, AND TV ANIME; ITS POPULARITY KNOWS NO BOUNDS. FACE THE SECRETS OF ITS AMAZINGNESS!!

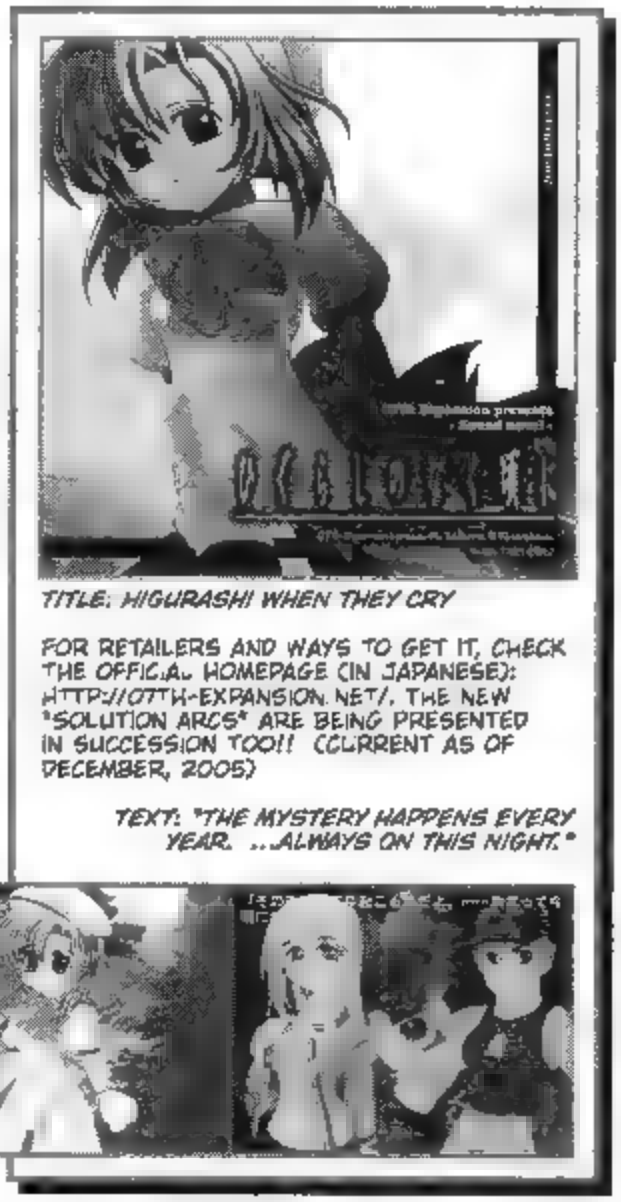
① THE "MYSTERIES" ARE INCREDIBLE!!

WHAT MAKES "HIGURASHI" EPIC IS THAT "YOU DON'T KNOW THE TRUTH JUST FROM READING IT." THE USER NEEDS TO REASON OUT THE TRUTH IN THEIR OWN WAY AS THEY READ.

THE SCENARIOS PREPARED ARE THREE: "ABDUCTED BY DEMONS," "COTTON DRIFTING," "CURSE KILLING" (PLUS THE EXTRA CHAPTER, "KILLING TIME").

THE CHARACTERS THAT APPEAR IN THE THREE SCENARIOS ARE ALMOST THE SAME, BUT DEVELOPMENTS IN EACH ARE VASTLY DIFFERENT. BUT EACH SCENARIO CENTERS AROUND THE SERIES OF MYSTERIOUS INCIDENTS CALLED "OYASHIRO-SAMA'S CURSE."

WHAT IS THE TRUTH OF THESE INCIDENTS? ARE THEY CAUSED BY PEOPLE, A CURSE, OR MERE COINCIDENCE...?



TITLE: HIGURASHI WHEN THEY CRY

FOR RETAILERS AND WAYS TO GET IT, CHECK THE OFFICIAL HOMEPAGE (IN JAPANESE): HTTP://07TH-EXPANSION.NET/. THE NEW "SOLUTION ARCS" ARE BEING PRESENTED IN SUCCESSION TOO!! (CURRENT AS OF DECEMBER, 2005)

TEXT: "THE MYSTERY HAPPENS EVERY YEAR. ...ALWAYS ON THIS NIGHT."

② THE "HORROR" IS INCREDIBLE!!

BASED ON THE CLUES SPREAD THROUGHOUT EACH SCENARIO, A HOT DEBATE HAS DEVELOPED ON THE INTERNET OVER THE TRUTH. THAT'S JUST HOW POWERFULLY ALLURING THE "MYSTERY" IS.

③ THE "CHARACTERS" ARE INCREDIBLE!!

ANOTHER ASPECT OF ITS CHARM IS THE "HORROR." THEIR ENJOYABLE NORMAL LIVES FALL INTO UNBELIEVABLE ABNORMALITY AT THE SLIGHTEST OPPORTUNITY. THE LOVABLE CHARACTERS SUDDENLY BECOME THE MAIN CHARACTERS OF A TRAGEDY. ITS EXQUISITE TEXT AND PRODUCTION WITH ITS TWISTS AND TURNS CREATE A FEAR THAT SENDS CHILLS DOWN YOUR SPINE. THIS HAS GOTTEN MANY USERS HOOKED.

AS IS THEIR CHARM, THE CHARACTERS ASSERT THEIR INDIVIDUALITY IN FULL AND WITHOUT MERCY THEY ENJOY NORMAL LIFE WITH THEIR CLUB ACTIVITIES...

...AND EVEN IN THE ABNORMAL DAYS THAT VISIT THEM LATER. THEY EACH HAVE MANY FANS PASSIONATE ENOUGH TO BUILD FIGURES OF THEM.

④ "RYUKISHI 07" IS INCREDIBLE!!

THE TEXT AND THE PICTURES OF THIS SHOCKING WORK WERE ALL MADE BY ONE PERSON—RYUKISHI 07. IN THE GAME INDUSTRY, WHERE EPIC GAMES MADE BY LARGE TEAMS HAVE BECOME MAINSTREAM, THE TALENT AND PASSION OF THIS ONE PERSON HAVE CREATED A SENSATION.

EVERYTHING ABOUT "HIGURASHI" IS INCREDIBLE. IT TRULY IS THE STRONGEST NOVEL GAME!!

TEXT: "EH? WHAT DO YOU MEAN...? RENA GAVE A TERRIBLE SCREAM BACK THEN."

!
OMAKE③

CHAPTER 3: SUSPICION

TOMITAKE-SAN DIED ON THE NIGHT OF THE COTTON DRIFTING.

HE SCRATCHED AWAY AT HIS THROAT UNTIL HE DIED...

FOR THE FIFTH YEAR IN A ROW, OYASHIRO-SAMA'S CURSE HAS STRUCK ON THE NIGHT OF THE COTTON DRIFTING...

THE DETECTIVE SAYS THAT THESE MURDERS ARE COMMITTED BY THE ENTIRE VILLAGE.

MIIIIN (BUZZZ) MIN MIN MIN

I KEEP THE A.C. ON FULL BLAST.

TELL ME IF IT'S TOO COLD, MAEBARA-SAN.

THE MURDER VICTIM IS JIROU TOMITAKE-SAN.

THIS IS A PEN NAME. HIS REAL NAME IS CURRENTLY UNDER INVESTIGATION.

IT IS BELIEVED HE WAS KILLED IMMEDIATELY AFTER PARTING WAYS WITH YOU AND THE OTHERS, MAEBARA-SAN.

WHY HE CLAWED OUT HIS THROAT IS UNKNOWN.

PERHAPS HE WAS GIVEN SOME KIND OF DRUG...?

...OH YEAH, WHAT ABOUT THE WOMAN WHO WAS WITH TOMITAKE-SAN?

MIYO TAKANO-SAN, YOU MEAN? ...UNFORTUNATELY, SHE'S BEEN MISSING SINCE LAST NIGHT.

BUT, UM ...

OOISHI OF THE OKINOMIYA POLICE.

PLEASED TO MAKE YOUR ACQUAINTANCE.

NN FU FU!

...OOISHI-SAN.

...WHY WAS TOMITAKE-SAN KILLED...?

THERE WAS NO REASON FOR THE VILLAGERS TO KILL HIM!

TOMITAKE-SAN LOVED HINAMIZAWA.

...BECAUSE TOMITAKE-SAN WAS AN OUTSIDER.

PROBABLY ...

THESE PEOPLE WERE ENEMIES TO THE VILLAGE, SO YOU CAN SEE WHY THE VILLAGERS WOULD KILL THEM.

THE FIRST WAS THE DIRECTOR OF THE DAM CONSTRUCTION PROJECT. THE SECOND WAS SOMEONE WHO WAS IN FAVOR OF THE DAM.

THE VICTIMS IN THIS STRING OF MURDERS ...

.....HUH?

THERE'S NO WAY THAT COULD BE TRUE.

HA-HA... JUST FOR THAT?

WELL, LISTEN.

AND YET THEY WERE KILLED.

THE HOUSEWIFE IN THE FOURTH YEAR WAS JUST RELATED TO SOMEONE WHO SUPPORTED THE DAM.

BUT THE PRIEST IN THE THIRD YEAR WAS NO MORE THAN PASSIVE IN FIGHTING THE DAM.

IT WOULDN'T BE SO STRANGE FOR TOMITAKE-SAN TO BE THE LATEST VICTIM BECAUSE HE'S AN "OUTSIDER."

NO ...

GU (CLENCH...)

THAT'S WHY IT'S SO SCARY.

THE MOTIVATION BEHIND THE KILLINGS GETS WEAKER BY THE YEAR.

FU FU FU NN

...I'D LIKE TO ASK FOR YOUR HELP, MAEBARA-SAN.

...WHY WOULD THEY DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT...?

BUT ...

TO FIND OUT...

IN THE SEEMINGLY PEACEFUL VILLAGE OF HINAMI-ZAWA...?

ARE THESE MURDERS BEING COMMITTED FOR SO LITTLE ...?

EH ...?

...YOU SAY YOU WANT MY HELP, BUT...

MIIIIIIN BUZZZZZZ

MIN MIN MIN

...WHO HASN'T BEEN IN THE VILLAGE LONG, AND DOESN'T BELIEVE IN THE CURSE.

I NEED HELP FROM SOMEONE LIKE YOU...

YES ...

THAT'S KIND OF LIKE SPYING ...

...IF YOU SEE OR HEAR ANYTHING.

ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS TELL ME...

THAT GOES FOR YOUR FRIENDS TOO.

ESPE-CIALLY...

AND I ASK THAT YOU NOT TELL ANYONE ABOUT THIS.

WHA—

...BE CAREFUL THAT MION SONOZAKI NEVER FINDS OUT.

...BUT THE SONOZAKI FAMILY LED THE RESISTANCE FIGHTING THE DAM.

...I HATE TO SAY IT...

WHY!!?

ARE YOU SAYING MION IS INVOLVED!?

SHE INTERFERED WITH A PUBLIC OFFICIAL PERFORMING HIS DUTIES DURING THE RESISTANCE.

YES. MION-SAN EVEN HAS A RECORD FOR A FEW MISDEMEANORS.

MION'S FAMILY LED THE RESISTANCE?

IF THESE INCIDENTS ARE CAUSED BY THE VILLAGE...

...THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE SONOZAKI FAMILY IS INVOLVED IS HIGH.

IT'S JUST THAT WE DON'T KNOW WHO'S INVOLVED OR TO WHAT EXTENT, SO I DON'T WANT YOU TO LET ANYONE KNOW.

IT'S NOT THAT I'M TELLING YOU TO DOUBT YOUR FRIENDS.

I CAN'T HIDE THINGS FROM MY FRIENDS ...

BUT THEY'RE ALL MY FRIENDS.

!!

MISDEMEANORS? INTERFERING WITH A PUBLIC OFFICIAL'S DUTIES!?

...YOU'LL KEEP THIS CASE A SECRET FROM YOUR FRIENDS SO AS NOT TO WORRY THEM.

HOW DOES THAT SOUND?

WE'RE KEEPING THIS INCIDENT A SECRET SO AS NOT TO STIR UP ANXIETY AMONGST THE VILLAGERS.

SO, MAEBARA-SAN...

KANA KANA KANA KANA KANA

カナカナカナ…

BUT IT'S SUCH A TRANQUIL VILLAGE, AND EVERY-BODY GETS ALONG...

EVERYBODY KNOWS EVERYBODY IN HINAMIZAWA.

MURDERS COMMITTED BY THE VILLAGE?

WHY WOULDN'T RENA OR MION TELL ME ABOUT THE INCIDENT WHEN I ASKED THEM...?

NONE.

I DON'T KNOW.

ARE YOU TIRED, KEIICHI-KUN?

... ARE YOU?

KEI-CHAN, HEEEEY!

THE NEXT DAY AT LUNCH.

SATOKO-CHAN, LET'S LET HIM SLEEP.

I'LL WAKE YOU UP WITH MY SPECIAL TRAP!

I SUPPOSE WE HAVE NO CHOICE.

I STAYED UP TOO LATE WATCH-ING TV.

I'M SLEEPY ...

THE TRUTH IS I WAS SO BOTHERED BY WHAT OOISHI-SAN SAID THAT I COULDN'T SLEEP.

YOU'RE RIGHT, RIKA-CHAN.

IT'S NOT NICE TO BE NOISY, SIR... LET'S GO SOMEWHERE ELSE, SIR.

SO TO THINK THAT MION MIGHT BE INVOLVED WITH THE MYSTERIOUS DEATHS...

SHE WAS GETTING ALONG SO WELL WITH TOMITAKE-SAN.

YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE YOUR MASORIDEBUT THIS YEAR! MION

APPARENTLY DISAPPEARED ON THE NIGHT OF THE COTTON DRIFTING.

NO, THERE'S NO WAY...

GORON (ROLL)

...TALKING ABOUT TOMI-TAKE-SAN!?

COULD THEY BE...

WE DON'T KNOW IF SHE WAS HIT BY THE CURSE.

...THERE'S ANOTHER ONE, ISN'T THERE?

WE DON'T KNOW IF SHE WAS DEMONED AWAY.

...KE-SAN? WAS IT ...KE-SAN?

...AS FAR AS WE KNOW.

"DEMONED AWAY."

DEMONED AWAY...

DEMONED AWAY?

WHAT ARE THEY TALKING ABOUT?

APPARENTLY THEY'RE TALKING TO THE POLICE TO CLEAN THINGS UP QUIETLY THIS YEAR.

ONE MORE? OYASHIRO-SAMA?

IF IT'S OYASHIRO-SAMA... YES.

...THER WAY, THERE'S ONE MORE PERSON, ISN'T THERE?

... ISN'T THERE?

...MAYBE...

SO MAYBE WE JUST DON'T KNOW...

...AND SOMEONE... MIGHT HAVE... ...RIGHT?

...will the next one...

.....be Rena...?

!?

DOES RENA THINK SHE'LL BE THE NEXT VICTIM?

WHY ON EARTH ..

...BUT IT DIDN'T WORK FOR...DID IT?

THAT WAS A LONG TIME AGO. ...LET'S NOT TALK ABOUT THIS ANY-MORE.

...IT'S OKAY. YOU CAME BACK, RENA.

DON'T TELL ME THAT'S TRUE? ...NO, THERE'S NO WAY..

THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE SONOZAKI FAMILY IS INVOLVED IS HIGH.

IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE A SECRET.

AND HOW DO THEY KNOW ABOUT TOMITAKE-SAN ANYWAY?

WHY AM I EAVES-DROPPING ON MY FRIENDS' CONVER-SATION!?

GUH! (CLENCH)

HA (GASP)

...SO I DON'T KNOW ANY MORE THAN THIS...?

I'M THEIR FRIEND, AREN'T I...!?

DAMMIT! WHY WON'T RENA OR MION TALK TO ME ABOUT ANYTHING?

AAAHH, THAT WAS A GREAT NAP!

GATAN (CLATTER)

ARGH! I'M DONE PRETEND-ING I'M ASLEEP!!

BOKO

BOKO

BOKO

BOKON (BONK)

(GHHHH SPRRRING)

THESE ARE EVERY-ONE'S OUTDOOR SHOES, AREN'T THEY?

K-KEIICHI-KUN, ARE YOU OKAY?

HYOI (YOINK)

S-SATOKO, WHY YOU!!

OOOO-HO-HO! YOU'RE QUITE POPULAR WITH THE SHOES!

WHAT'S WRONG, KEI-CHAN?

.....

...YOURS ARE TOO HUGE, MION.

I PREFER RENA'S. THEY'RE JUST RIGHT.

WHAT!?

JUST RIGHT... OHH...

HAVE YOU BEEN BEWITCHED BY THIS OLD MAN'S BEAUTIFUL FACE?

OR IS IT MY NICE BODY?

BOYON (BOING)

WHOOOAAA!?

THESE ...

TAKE THIS! PUFF-PUFF ATTACK !!

I CAN'T BELIEVE THEY WOULD BE INVOLVED IN A MURDER.

I-I DON'T THINK YOU SHOULD DO THAT.

THESE FUN GIRLS WHO CARE SO MUCH ABOUT THEIR FRIENDS

IF WE KEEP HAVING FUN TOGETHER LIKE THIS, WILL THEY TELL ME SOMEDAY...?

BUT WHY ARE THEY HIDING THINGS FROM ME?

NO CLUB TODAY!?

AFTER SCHOOL.

I HAVE TO GO HELP MY UNCLE WITH HIS SHOP.

I'M REEEALLY SORRY!

PAN (CLAP!)

WE'RE GOING TO GO BUY SOME THINGS, SIR.

WE'RE OUT OF SOY SAUCE, SIR.

MAKE SURE TO CLEAN EVERYTHING UP.

RENA WILL HELP YOU CLEAN UP!

HEARTLESS BASTARDS ...

HEEEY! MION!

SEE YOU TOMOR-ROW!

BUT TOMORROW CLUB WILL BE BACK IN FULL FORCE.

...IT WILL!

IT'S TOO BAD ABOUT TODAY.

TO THINK THESE ALL FIT IN THE LOCKER.

AH-HA-HA. I THINK THERE WILL BE EVEN MORE IN THE FUTURE.

BUT WOW, THERE'RE A LOT OF GAMES HERE.

O-OHH!

WASHA (RUFFLE)

わしゃ

WASHA

わしゃ

HEH-HEH-HEH...I'LL SHOW NO MERCY. BE READY FOR IT!

YEAH...

THIS IS FROM BEFORE I WAS HERE.

WIN-LOSS 勝敗 + HIJON 随音 + RENA

WHOA, IT'S AN OLD SCORE SHEET.

WHAT'S THIS?

AL-RIGHT, BACK TO... CLEAN-ING.

はう OHH

THERE'S NO NEED TO RUSH, IS THERE? ...HUH?

KEIICHI-KUN, LET'S HURRY AND CLEAN!

THERE WAS ANOTHER CLUB MEMBER?

HEY, THIS TOSHI

I DIDN'T KNOW

梨花悟史

SATOSHI?

I'M SORRY. I DON'T REALLY KNOW.

I UNDERSTAND... IT'S FINE.

I-I'M SORRY! I'M NOT SAYING IT TO BE MEAN!

AGAIN?

BAN (SLAM)

SO I DIDN'T TALK TO HIM MUCH.

RENA TRANSFERRED HERE WHEN SATOSHI-KUN TRANSFERRED OUT.

SO THEY REALLY ARE HIDING THINGS?

I'LL NEVER BE MORE THAN AN "OUTSIDER"...

KEI-ICHI-KUN...?

KANA (CHIRP) KANA KANA

カナーカナカナ…

カナカナカナ…

KANA KANA KANA…

KEIICHI-KUN. KEIICHI-KUN!

ARE YOU MAD ABOUT SOME-THING?

… ARE YOU?

YOU ONLY JUST TRANS-FERRED HERE LAST YEAR, RIGHT, RENA?

WON'T THEY ACKNOW-LEDGE ME AS A "FRIEND" YET?

Y-YES. UM, WELL!

WHAT WAS IT LIKE THEN?

THE SERIES OF MYSTERIOUS DEATHS, SATOSHI…

SHE HID SOME-THING FROM ME AGAIN.

.....

I FELL INTO SATOKO-CHAN'S TRAPS, AND RIKA-CHAN PATTED MY HEAD.

OF COURSE I WAS NERVOUS AT FIRST, BUT MII-CHAN AND THE OTHERS WERE VERY NICE TO ME.

...EH?

NOBODY HID ANYTHING FROM YOU?

LITTLE BY LITTLE, I STARTED GETTING ALONG WITH MORE FRIENDS ...

HEY, RENA.

YOU'RE ALL LYING AND HIDING THINGS FROM ME, AREN'T YOU?

WE'RE NOT. NOT AT ALL.

EH...?

TELL ME WHAT YOU'RE HIDING.

YOU'RE LYING!

TELL ME THE TRUTH!!

TH-THAT HURTS, KEIICHI-KUN!

GRIND

AT THIS RATE, I WON'T BE ABLE TO TRUST ANY OF YOU.

HIDING SOME-THING FROM ME!!

YOU ARE, AREN'T YOU?

THEN...

.....

WHAT ABOUT YOU, KEIICHI-KUN?

YOU'RE NOT LYING TO RENA AND EVERYONE, ARE YOU, KEIICHI-KUN?

WH-WHAT'S WITH THOSE EYES ...?

YOU'RE NOT HIDING ANYTHING, ARE YOU?

...ARE YOU?

SHE COULDN'T. THERE'S NO WAY ...!

...ABOUT OOISHI-SAN AND THAT I WAS EAVES-DROPPING?

HIDING SOME-THING...? DOES SHE KNOW...

LIAR.

...OR HIDING ANY-THING.

I-I'M NOT LYING...

AH-HA-HA! YOU DID, KEIICHI-KUN.

YOU KEPT IT A SECRET THAT YOU WERE TALKING TO A STRANGE MAN IN HIS CAR.

.....GH!!

WHO WAS...

...THAT MAN?

EVEN THAT OOISHI-SAN IS A DETECTIVE...

...AND THAT I'M HELPING HIM.

DON'T TELL ME RENA KNOWS EVERY-THING?

WHO WAS THAT MAN?

BIKU (FLINCH)

COME ON.

LIAR.

BAH! (LEAP)

I-I DON'T KNOW HIM!

IT'S NOTHING TO FEEL GUILTY ABOUT!!

DOKKLIN

DOKKLIN (THUMP)

I-I'M HIDING IT SO I DON'T WORRY EVERYONE.

S-S-S-SOME-THING THAT DOESN'T HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH ANY OF YOU!!

DO

DO (THUMP)

WHAT WERE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

OH...

Ah-
ha-ha.
Oh.

So it has
nothing to
do with
us...

THAT'S
RIGHT...

TH-

YOU'RE LYING!!!

FIGHT!

BAGA (CHAP) BAGA BAGA

SEE?

KATA (SHUDDER)

JUST LIKE YOU HAVE SECRETS AND THINGS YOU'RE HIDING, KEIICHI-KUN...

...RENA AND EVERYONE ELSE DO TOO.

SHE...

...SHE'S NOT RENA...

THIS ISN'T...

...THE RENA RYUGU I KNOW ...!!

IT'S COOLED DOWN A LOT

Keiichi-kun.

Let's go home!

カクン

KAKUN (THUD)

AH...

IT'S THE NORMAL RENA...

...NO, IT WASN'T RENA.

I'VE NEVER SEEN A HUMAN WITH SUCH CREEPY EYES.

I'VE NEVER SEEN RENA LIKE THAT BEFORE...

WHO WAS THAT JUST NOW?

THEN WHAT WAS THAT?

...WHO LOOKED LIKE RENA RYUGUI?

WHO WAS THAT...

KANA KANA KANA

KANA KANA KANA

KANA KANA KANA

KANA KANA KANA

I'M SURE THAT WASN'T RENA.

WHAT WAS THAT BACK THERE?

THE BOOK STORE?

PHONE CALL FROM THE BOOK STORE.

...IF IT WASN'T RENA, THEN WHAT THE HELL WAS IT?

AT LEAST CHANGE OUT OF YOUR UNIFORM!

This is Okinomiya Books ...

HELLO...?

KEIICHI!

—!!

Is this Maebara-san? This is Ooishi.

Sorry about that. I thought I'd upset her if I told her I was with the police.

P'SHAN (SNAP)

DOTA (STAMP)

J-JUST A MINUTE, PLEASE!

DOTA

OOISHI-SAN MIGHT KNOW SOMETHING.

DOKI (B-DMP)

DOKI

DOKI

How are you? Have you been well since we talked?

EH? AH! SORRY.

Hello!? Can you hear me?

EVEN SO, I GUESS HE WOULDN'T BELIEVE ME IF I TOLD HIM RENA TURNED INTO A DIFFERENT PERSON...

GUH.. CLENCH

UH, UM... OOISHI-SAN...

...RIGHT. I'LL ASK HIM ABOUT THAT.

Oh... That's a term unique to this area.

It means the same thing as what most of the world calls "spirited away."

DO YOU KNOW WHAT "DEMONED AWAY" MEANS?

DEMON.

It refers to people being abducted by demons and suddenly disappearing.

YOU MEAN THE KIND IN HELL THAT HAS A METAL ROD AND TIGER UNDERWEAR?

A DEMON ...?

WH- WHAT AM I THINK- ING!?

...kidnapping people, eating them, getting bits of them everywhere.

There's a scary old story about a demon coming down to the village...

More like a man- eating demon.

Hinami-zawa...

...used to be feared as the "village where demons live."

RENA WAS TALKING ABOUT IT.

...AH, NO...

What about it?

APPAR-ENTLY THE CURSE AND BEING DEMONED AWAY HAPPEN TOGETHER ...

THERE'S ONE MORE PERSON, ISN'T THERE?

IF IT'S OMAMIYO-SAMA... YES.

Did she say anything else?

...UM, WELL...

Now that you men-tion it...

I see ...

?

...Is that true?

The series of past events...

...all follow that pattern.

Of the six murderers, one of them is still on the run...

But you can also think of it this way...

...maybe he was demoned away and went missing.

AH...

You know about the first incident, right? With the dismembered body.

...YOU'RE KIDDING, RIGHT?

Actually, the only body discovered was that of the husband.

The divers looked every-where, but they couldn't find the wife.

WHAT ABOUT THE NEXT YEAR? A COUPLE FELL FROM A CLIFF, RIGHT?

The priest's wife who drowned herself in the swamp.

The third year was exactly the same.

It fits the pattern too.

And the woman who was with Tomitake-san has gone missing too...

All that was found were her will and her zouri which were left in front of the swamp.

There are suspicions that it was a fabricated suicide.

TO THINK A DEATH AND A DISAPPEAR-ANCE WOULD HAPPEN ON THE SAME DAY EVERY YEAR...

NO...

...had a hand in all of these disappear-ances too.

It's possible that the villagers ...

WHA ...!?

This isn't a coinci-dence.

And of course it's not a curse either.

WHO WAS THE KILLER? DID SOMEBODY GO MISSING?

WHAT ABOUT THE HOUSEWIFE WHO WAS BEATEN TO DEATH IN THE FOURTH YEAR?

EVERY SINGLE YEAR!?

YOU'RE SAYING THEY'RE GOING THAT FAR?

GYU SQUEEZE

His name was Satoshi Hojo.

In the fourth year, a child from the victim's household went missing.

The murderer was arrested but has already passed away in prison.

SA-TOSHI... SATO—

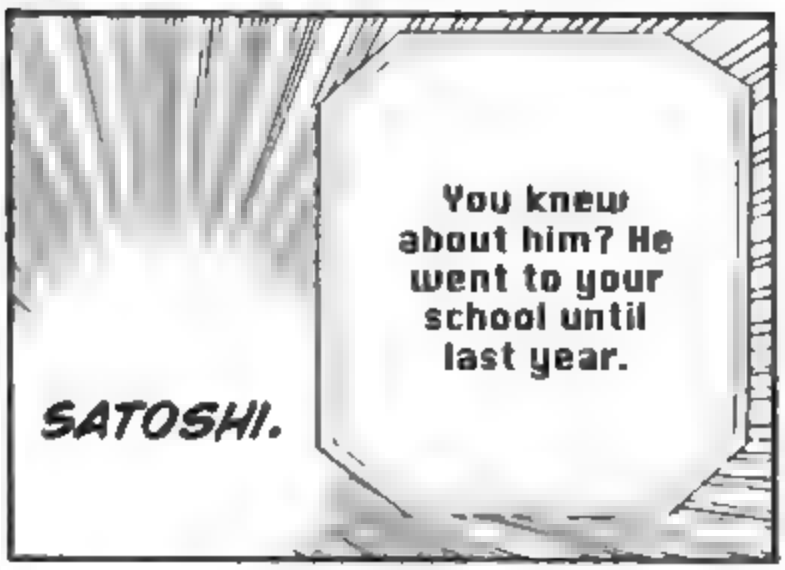
SATOSHI HOJO?

SATO-SHI !?

SA-

BAM! (JUMP!)

沙都子梨花
悟史
THE VERY LAST NAME ON THE CLUB'S SCORE-SHEET.
HE WAS A MEMBER OF THE CLUB!


You knew about him? He went to your school until last year.
SATOSHI.

THE SPOT I'M IN RIGHT NOW...

...IS WHERE SATOSHI WAS ONE YEAR AGO.

TO THINK A GUY WHO PARTICIPATED IN CLUB ACTIVITIES IN THE SAME CLASSROOM...

...WENT MISSING... WAS DEMONED AWAY!

THE SERIES OF MYSTERIOUS DEATHS, OYASHIRO-SAMA'S CURSE...

...HAS FINALLY BEEN LINKED TO ME...

HAI (GASP!)

WILL THE NEXT ONE BE RENA?

YES... SHE LOOKED PRETTY WELL CONVINCED.

You mean Rena Ryugu-san?

Mae-bara san?

RENA... WAS SAYING SHE MIGHT BE THE NEXT VICTIM.

KEIICHI!!!!!

DON

DON (THUMP)

!?

RENA'S FEAR AND SUDDEN CHANGE...I WONDER IF THEY'RE RELATED SOMEHOW...

Really... We'll look into it.

YOUR DAD'S GOT BOTH HIS HANDS FULL!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING, DAD?

PI (BEEP)

CAN WE LEAVE THINGS HERE TONIGHT?

I-I'M SORRY, MY DAD'S HERE.

KEIICHIIII! OPEN UP ALREADY!

DON

DON (THUMP)

LET'S HAVE A MAN-TO-MAN TALK!

KEIICHIIIII!

DOOOOOON! (BAAAAAM!)

?HE

NIYA (LEER)

NIYA

HEH-HEH-HEH... WHAT WERE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

YOU'RE IN AN ANNOY-INGLY GOOD MOOD.

... WHAT?

SHE WASN'T HERE.

.....
...?

OOOHHH, DON'T DODGE THE QUES-TION.

RENA-CHAN WAS JUST HERE VISITING YOU, WASN'T SHE?

EH?

YOUR DAD TOLD RENA-CHAN WHERE YOUR ROOM IS AND EVERYTHING.

I EVEN SAW HER GO UPSTAIRS.

SHE NEVER CAME INTO MY ROOM.

RENA WAS HERE?

BUT I JUST MISSED HER.

YOU SEEMED TO BE TALKING FOR A LONG TIME, SO I BROUGHT YOU SOME TEA.

MMM? A LITTLE LESS THAN AN HOUR AGO?

WH-WHEN DID RENA COME HERE AGAIN?

WHAT ON EARTH IS GOING ON?

FATHER! HURRY AND TIDY UP YOUR WORK-SHOP!

RIGHT, I'M COMING!

ABOUT AN HOUR AGO...

...SHE PASSED DAD ON HIS WAY UP AND WENT HOME.

AND A WHILE LATER...

...DAD LET RENA IN.

SHE CAME UP THE STAIRS TO THE SECOND FLOOR.

...FROM THE TIME SHE CAME UP THE STAIRS TO THE TIME SHE LEFT?

SO WHERE THE HELL WAS RENA...

...IS A NARROW HALLWAY...

DOKUN

DOKUN

ALL THAT'S BETWEEN THE STAIRS AND MY ROOM...

THERE'S NOWHERE ELSE FOR HER TO GO...

THAT MEANS... RENA...

DOKUN

DOKUN

DOKUN

...THE WHOLE TIME!!

...WAS STANDING BEHIND ME...

PISHAN! (SNAP!)

UWAAA-AAHH!!

THE DOOR TO MY ROOM IS LIKE NOTHING!

DID SHE HEAR EVERY-THING?

SAA DRAIN

MY WHOLE CONVER-SATION WITH OOISHI-SAN...!?

RENA WAS TALKING ABOUT IT.

RENA MIGHT BE THE NEXT VICTIM...

...NOTHING'S MADE ANY SENSE.

EVER SINCE I HEARD ABOUT THE BRUTAL KILLING...

WHY?

WHAT WOULD SHE...

...DO THAT FOR...!?

...THE PEOPLE WHO WENT MISSING, "DEMONED AWAY"...

...MY FRIENDS WHO ARE HIDING THINGS FROM ME...

...RENA'S STRANGE BEHAVIOR...

THE SERIES OF MYSTERIOUS DEATHS THAT HAVE BEEN OCCURRING IN THIS VILLAGE, OYASHIRO-SAMA'S CURSE...

...MAKING PEOPLE DISAPPEAR AND CALLING IT "DEMONED AWAY"...

...KILLING PEOPLE AND CALLING IT A CURSE...

IF THIS VILLAGE REALLY IS...

THIS VILLAGE IS INSANE!!

INSANE...

HA! (GASP!)

...USED TO BE FEARED...

HINAMI-ZAWA

...AS THE VILLAGE WHERE DEMONS LIVED.

GAKU

GAKU (SHIVER)

THERE'S A SECRET IN THIS VILLAGE THAT I DON'T KNOW.

WHAT THE HELL...

...IS THE TRUE FACE OF HINAMI-ZAWA!?

HIGURASHI WHEN THEY CRY- ABDUCTED BY DEMONS ARC 1 END

ABOUT THE MANGA VERSION OF THE "ABDUCTED BY DEMONS ARC"

ORIGINAL STORY, SUPERVISOR: RYUKISHI 07

HELLO, I AM RYUKISHI 07; I WROTE THE ORIGINAL STORY. I TRULY THANK YOU FOR PICKING UP "HIGURASHI WHEN THEY CRY: ABDUCTED BY DEMONS ARC" VOLUME ONE.

PARTIALLY BECAUSE THE ORIGINAL STORY "HIGURASHI WHEN THEY CRY" IS A NOVEL GAME, ALMOST ALL OF THE EXPRESSIONS ARE WRITTEN IN TEXT. SO THERE ARE MORE THAN A FEW PLACES WHERE I LEFT THEM TO THE READERS' IMAGINATIONS AND ONLY DEPICTED VAGUE EXPRESSIONS.

I AM TRULY THANKFUL TO SUZURAGI-SENSEI FOR PORTRAYING THE FUN AND HORROR OF THE ORIGINAL STORY SO WONDERFULLY IN MANGA FORM! JUST WHEN THEIR FUN DAILY LIFE HAS BEEN COMPLETELY MUTILATED, THERE'S THE SHOCKING SCENE WITH RENA, AND I COULDN'T HELP BUT BE IN AWE AT SUZURAGI-SENSEI'S BLOODCURDLING POWER!! THERE ARE MORE SCARY SCENES TO COME IN THE "ABDUCTED BY DEMONS ARC," SO I'M AFRAID (CAN'T WAIT) TO SEE THE ROUGH DRAFT!

THE "ABDUCTED BY DEMONS ARC" IS THE FIRST OF THE EIGHT STORY ARCS, AND I THINK ONE OF ITS HIGHLIGHTS IS THAT IT CLEARLY SHOWS THE LIGHT AND DARK SIDES OF THE STORY'S SETTING, HINAMIZAWA. I HOPE YOU ENJOY SEEING THE CONTRAST AS THE STORY COMPLETELY CHANGES FROM VOLUME ONE TO THE FUTURE VOLUME TWO.

WITH THE HELP OF VARIOUS PEOPLE, I'VE FINALLY MADE IT THIS FAR. I AM EXTREMELY GRATEFUL TO BE ALLOWED TO HAVE A HAND IN THE MANGA ADAPTATION OF THE FAMOUS WORK, "HIGURASHI WHEN THEY CRY." FURTHERMORE, PERSONALLY, I WAS ALLOWED TO STUDY MY OWN OBSESSION... (LAUGH)

RYUKISHI07-SAMA, WHO CHECKED THE ROUGH DRAFTS THOROUGHLY AND METICULOUSLY DESPITE BEING SO BUSY; MY EDITORS, KOIZUMI-SAMA AND KOUNO-SAMA, WHO PATIENTLY GAVE ME DETAILED ADVICE; HIKARU UZAKI-SAMA, NIWAKO-SAMA, YOSHI SAKANO-SAMA, MOYOMOSO-SAMA, WHO HELPED ME WHEN I NEEDED IT DURING THEIR HECTIC SCHEDULES. MY FAMILY, WHO WARMLY WATCHED OVER ME.

AND YOU, WHO READ THIS MANGA! REALLY, THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

"HIGURASHI WHEN THEY CRY: ABDUCTED BY DEMONS ARC - MANGA VERSION" WILL BE GOING ON TO VOLUME TWO. I WILL CONTINUE TO DO MY VERY BEST, SO PLEASE KEEP READING.

I'M ON THE COVER!
表紙はオレだ!!
THERE'S GONNA BE A NEW ARC ADDED IN VOLUME TWO!!
"HIGURASHI WHEN THEY CRY: ABDUCTED BY DEMONS ARC - MANGA VERSION"!!

YOU'RE LYING!!
DOOOON! (BOOOOM!)
EEEEEEEP!
EVERY PAGE PRESENTS A SUMPTUOUS FEAST IN FULL COLOR WITH FLUORESCENT PINK!!
IT'S CALLED THE "GETTING SEXY ARC"!

I, KEIICHI MAEBARA, AM IN DANGER OF LOSING MY LIFE. I DON'T KNOW WHO'S TRYING TO KILL ME OR WHY. THE ONE THING I KNOW IS THAT IT HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH OYASHIRO-SAMA'S CURSE.

FROM A NOTE FOUND IN THE HOME OF THE SUSPECT, KEIICHI MAEBARA, AFTER THE TRAGEDY.

Higurashi
WHEN THEY CRY
ABDUCTED BY DEMONS ARC

TRANSLATION NOTES

Pg. 46

Old geezer is a card game similar to Old Maid. Instead of using a joker, you pick another card to use in the joker's place.

Pg. 66

A **higurashi** is a variety of cicada, which sings in the early evening, just before nightfall. Higurashi literally means "day darkener," and its call is appropriately a sad and mournful one.

Pg. 76

A **lantern drifting**, or *tourou nagashi*, is a ceremony in which paper lanterns are set afloat down a river in mourning for the dead. It is often performed at the time of the Obon Festival, a Japanese festival honoring the dead.

Pg. 79

I know I'm inexperienced. As Keiichi comments, this is something commonly said by a new bride to her husband and/or his family, to apologize for being unfamiliar with the ways of being a good wife.

Okonomiyaki is loosely translated to "fried the way you like it." Okonomiyaki is kind of like a pizza and kind of like a pancake, made with all sorts of ingredients.

Pg. 84

Obatcha comes from *Obaachan*, which pretty much means "Grandma." Because Mion comes from such a small town, she says it with an accent, and it becomes "Obatcha."

Pg. 85

Takoyaki, meaning "octopus fry," are octopus dumplings, and can almost always be found at a Japanese festival.

Pg. 87
Oji-sama is a very respectful way of referring to a middle-aged man like Tomitake. Normally, "ojisama" would either be said alone or attached directly to his name (Tomitake-ojisama), but this time, Mion calls him Tomitake no Oji-sama: The honorable man Tomitake.

Pg. 90
Mion's country accent strikes again, changing "Oji-chan," a friendly way of addressing a middle-aged man, into "**otchan**."

Pg. 112
The **Shouwa Era** refers to the period of time when Emperor Shouwa was the emperor of Japan, from 1926—1989. What Keiichi means when asking about a curse in the Shouwa Era is that people don't really believe curses exist in these modern times.

Pg. 173
The word for "demon" that everyone's been using is **oni**. An oni is an ogre-like creature of Japanese legend said to have two horns and wear a loincloth made of tigerskin. With the influence of Buddhism, oni became a general term for the types of demons that live in hell.

Pg. 176
Zouri are the type of Japanese sandals shown by the swamp. They are worn with traditional Japanese clothing, which is the style a Shinto priest's wife is likely to wear.

HIGURASHI
WHEN THEY CRY
ABDUCTED BY DEMONS ARC ❶

RYUKISHI07
Karin Suzuragi

Translation: Alethea Nibley and Athena Nibley

Lettering: Shelby Peak

This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

Higurashi WHEN THEY CRY Abducted by Demons Arc, Vol. 1
©RYUKISHI07/07th Expansion ©2006 Karin Suzuragi/SQUARE ENIX CO., LTD. First published in Japan in 2006 by SQUARE ENIX CO., LTD. English translation rights arranged with SQUARE ENIX CO., LTD. and Hachette Book Group through Tuttle-Mori Agency, Inc.

Translation ©2008 by SQUARE ENIX CO., LTD.

All rights reserved. In accordance with the U.S. Copyright Act of 1976, the scanning, uploading, and electronic sharing of any part of this book without the permission of the publisher is unlawful piracy and theft of the author's intellectual property. If you would like to use material from the book (other than for review purposes), prior written permission must be obtained by contacting the publisher at permissions@hbgusa.com. Thank you for your support of the author's rights.

Yen Press
Hachette Book Group
237 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10017

www.HachetteBookGroup.com
www.YenPress.com

Yen Press is an imprint of Hachette Book Group, Inc. The Yen Press name and logo are trademarks of Hachette Book Group, Inc.

The publisher is not responsible for websites (or their content) that are not owned by the publisher.

First Yen Press ebook Edition: April 2014

ebook ISBN: 978-0-316-23757-4

App ISBN: 978-0-316-23866-3